In this course, Islam will be considered as a religion, culture, and civilization. The society of Shi'i Muslims in particular will be the focus of the course. During the last 200 years of Western study of Islam, Shi'ism has been neglected. It is only since the Islamic Revolution in Iran 1978-79 that Shi'ism received attention. Now with American forces in Iraq, Shi'ism is suddenly one of the main topics of interest for the news media. The Shi'is of Iraq are the majority -- some 60% -- of the population. But historically, Shi'is have been deprived of power in the government and of access to the political and economic life of the country. The most holy places of the Shi'is -- Karbala and Najaf -- are located south of Baghdad.

The image above is from the front page of The New York Times of October 7, 2003. It shows a silhouette of a woman wearing a black veil against the wasteland of the Iraqi desert. The only possession that she carries is a walking stick. No provisions, no clothing. She may be at least 100 miles from home and a long way from her destination: the tomb shrine of the grandson of the Prophet - Hussein, the martyr of Karbala. Since the official defeat of Saddam Hussein, thousands of pilgrims like this woman, have crossed daily and illegally into Iraq from Iran. The American soldiers are awe-stricken by the tenacity and endurance of these pilgrims, who suffer dehydration and malnutrition and the constant threat of landmines and roadside bombs, but, nevertheless, continue on their quest.
There will be two examinations: a MIDTERM and a FINAL.

Course Materials: Two books and one copy package: Frederic Mathewson Denny, *An Introduction to Islam*, hereinafter referred to as *Denny*, and John L. Esposito, *Islam: The Straight Path*, hereinafter referred to as *Esposito*. The books are to be found at the NYU bookstore. In addition to the books, there is a reproduced selection of topics under the title, *World Culture: Islamic Societies*, hereinafter referred to as "*CP*," to be obtained at Advanced Copy Center, 552 LaGuardia Place (between West 3rd and Bleecker Streets).

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Wednesday, September 6**  
Course Introduction  
The Peoples of Islam (map), *CP*: p. 1  
Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (roster), *CP*: p. 2  
The Shi‘i World in Modern Times (map),  
*CP*: p. 3  
The Basic Patterns of Mosque Architecture,  
*CP*: p. 4

**Monday, September 11**  
Pre-Islamic Arabia: Beliefs, Values, Way of Life.  
*Denny*, pp. 29-43

**Wednesday, September 13**  
Muhammad and the Early Muslim Community.  
*Denny*, pp. 47-71; *Esposito*, pp. 1-31.  
Concise Description of Sunni and Shi‘i Islam,  
*CP*: pp. 7-14  
The Medina Charter; Pact of Umar, *CP*: pp. 15-20

**Monday, September 18**  
CONTINUATION OF SEPTEMBER 13  
Muhammad and the Early Muslim Community.  
*Denny*, pp. 47-71; *Esposito*, pp. 1-31.  
Concise Description of Sunni and Shi‘i Islam,  
*CP*: pp. 7-14  
The Medina Charter; Pact of Umar *CP*: pp. 15-20

**Wednesday, September 20**  
The Arab Conquest and Islamic Rule: The Struggle for a Unified Umma.  
*Denny*, pp. 72-94.
Monday, September 25


Wednesday, September 27

Inside Mecca (video) – one page response paper required.

Monday, October 2

The Prophet’s Sunna as Preserved in the Hadith. Denny pp. 149-163.
An Introduction to the Opening Sura, CP: pp. 5-6.

Wednesday, October 4

Muslim Creeds and Theologies: Their Purposes and Varieties. Denny pp. 164-186.

Monday, October 9

NO CLASS – COLUMBUS DAY

Wednesday, October 11

Divorce Iranian Style (video) – one page response paper required.

Monday, October 16

The Story of Layla and Majnun, CP: pp. 45-64.

Wednesday, October 18


Monday, October 23

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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 25</td>
<td>MID-TERM EXAMINATION</td>
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<td>Monday, October 30</td>
<td>Concert of Sufi Music (live)</td>
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<td>Wednesday, November 1</td>
<td>Moorish Spain, CP: pp. 65-84</td>
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<td>Wednesday, November 8</td>
<td>The Ottoman Empire, CP: pp. 114-141.</td>
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<td>Monday, November 13</td>
<td>Muslim India, CP: pp. 142-161.</td>
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<td>Wednesday, November 22</td>
<td>Ideals and Realities of Islamic Community Life. Denny, pp. 289-312.</td>
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Wednesday, December 13 Course Review

Final Examination: December 20, 2006; 12:00-1:50 pm
Academic Guidelines for Students
Morse Academic Plan, College of Arts and Science

To help foster common academic expectations among students and instructors, the following guidelines for MAP courses are offered to students. While these represent minimum expectations across the curriculum, individual faculty members may set additional course requirements. Students should therefore consult the course syllabus for details of policies in each class.

Attendance
Inasmuch as students have voluntarily sought admission to the University, they are expected to attend all class meetings, including all lectures and all meetings of associated recitation, workshop, or laboratory sections. Students may be excused for documented medical or personal emergency and will receive reasonable accommodation for the observance of religious holidays. In these cases, they should contact their instructors in advance or, in cases of emergency, as soon as is practicable. Students are responsible for making up any material or assignments they miss.

Classroom Decorum
The classroom is a space for free and open inquiry and for the critical evaluation of ideas, and it should be free of personal prejudice. Students and instructors alike have an obligation to all members of the class to create an educational atmosphere of mutual trust and respect in which differences of opinion can be subjected to deliberate and reasonable examination without animus.

As a matter of courtesy to their fellow students and instructors, students should arrive at class promptly, prepared and ready to participate. Students are reminded particularly to shut off all cellular telephones and pagers and, except in cases of emergency, to remain in the classroom for the duration of the lecture or section meeting. If it is necessary to leave or enter a room once class has begun, students should do so quietly and with as little disruption as possible. Under University policy, disruptive classroom behavior may be subject to faculty review and disciplinary sanction.

Completion of Assignments
Students are expected to submit course work on time and to retain copies of their work until a final grade has been received for the course. Instructors are not obliged to accept late work and may assign a failing or reduced grade to such assignments.

Students who encounter sudden and incapacitating illness or an other comparably grave circumstance that prevents them from completing the final examination or assignment in a course may request a temporary mark of Incomplete from the course instructor. To receive an Incomplete, students must have completed all other requirements for the course, including satisfactory attendance, and there must be a strong likelihood they will pass the course when all work is completed.

Questions and Concerns
Up-to-date course information is available on the MAP website: www.nyu.edu/cas/map. Questions, concerns, comments, and feedback may be directed to the following members of the MAP staff, located in 903 Silver Center, 212-998-8119. Complaints will remain confidential.

Director: Dr. Eliot Borenstein morse.plan@nyu.edu
Associate Director, FCC: Dr. Vincent Renzi map.fcc@nyu.edu
Associate Director, FSI: Dr. Trace Jordan map.fsi@nyu.edu
Director of Administration: Mike Summers morse.plan@nyu.edu

revised 11/2005
Statement on Academic Integrity
Morse Academic Plan, College of Arts and Science

As a student at New York University, you have been admitted to a community of scholars who value free and open inquiry. Our work depends on honest assessment of ideas and their sources; and we expect you, as a member of our community, likewise to maintain the highest integrity in your academic work. Because of the central importance of these values to our intellectual life together, those who fail to maintain them will be subject to severe sanction, which may include dismissal from the University.

Plagiarism consists in presenting ideas and words without acknowledging their source and is an offense against academic integrity. Any of the following acts constitutes a crime of plagiarism.

- Using a phrase, sentence, or passage from another person’s work without quotation marks and attribution of the source.
- Paraphrasing words or ideas from another’s work without attribution.
- Reporting as your own research or knowledge any data or facts gathered or reported by another person.
- Submitting in your own name papers or reports completed by another.
- Submitting your own original work toward requirements in more than one class without the prior permission of the instructors.

Other offenses against academic integrity include the following.

- Collaborating with other students on assignments without the express permission of the instructor.
- Giving your work to another student to submit as his or her own.
- Copying answers from other students during examinations.
- Using notes or other sources to answer exam questions without the instructor’s permission.
- Secreting or destroying library or reference materials.
- Submitting as your own work a paper or results of research that you have purchased from a commercial firm or another person.

*Particular emphasis is placed on the use of papers and other materials to be found on the World-Wide Web, whether purchased or freely available. In addition to having access to the same search engines as students, faculty also have at their disposal a number of special websites devoted to detecting plagiarism from the web.*

Plagiarism and other cases of academic fraud are matters of fact, not intention. It is therefore crucial that you be diligent in assuring the integrity of your work.

- Use quotation marks to set off words that are not your own.
- Learn to use proper forms of attribution for source materials.
- Do your own original work in each class, without collaboration, unless otherwise instructed.
- Don’t use published sources, the work of others, or material from the web without attribution.
- For further information, consult the Bulletin of the College of Arts and Science, the CAS Academic Handbook, and the Student’s Guide to NYU.

*revised 11/2005*