

**Interpreting the Quran:
Gender & Jihad
REL 4364**

Aisha Musa
Office: DM304A
(305) 348-7098
amusa@fiu.edu

Course description: This course will introduce students to the history, interpretation and translation of the Quran, through a close examination of passages relating to issues of gender and *jihad* from a variety of English translations. After an introduction to the textual history of the Quran, the history and development of Quranic exegesis, and questions related to translation, the class will study passages from a variety of English translations that represent differing doctrinal views.

Required texts:

Title : The Cambridge Companion to the Qur'an
Author : Jane Dammen McAuliffe
Publisher : Cambridge University Press
Type : Required resource

Title : Ulum Al-Qur'an: An Introduction to the Sciences of the Qur'an
Author : Ahmad Von Denffer
Type : Required resource

Attendance Policy: Attendance and participation are important to success in this course, and attendance will be taken at each meeting.

Grading and Evaluation: Student progress and understanding will be determined on the basis of attendance and participation in class discussions, a take home mid-term exam, and a final paper. The percentage weights are as follows:

Final paper: 50%

Midterm exam: 30%

Attendance and participation: 20%

Plagiarism Policy: The following is the definition of plagiarism in the University's *CODE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY*:

1.02 Plagiarism: The deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student's own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is guilty of plagiarism. Any student helping another to plagiarize may be found guilty of academic misconduct (<http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/1acmisconductproc.htm>).

Students must enroll at turnitin.com. The course ID is **1712737** and the enrollment pass word is **enroll** All papers **must** be submitted through turnitin.com and will be checked for plagiarism using the latest available software. **Work that is found to be plagiarized will receive a failing grade** and the student may be subject to charges of academic misconduct.

Grading Scale:

98-100	A+	“As” are awarded for excellent to exceptional work, free of technical and stylistic errors, showing sustained thought and engagement with the material on an appropriate but impressive academic level.
93-97	A	
90-92	A-	
88-89	B+	“Bs” are awarded for good to very good work, with some occasional errors, but nonetheless clearly indicating a good grasp of the material and assigned task.
83-87	B	
80-82	B-	
78-79	C+	“Cs” are awarded for average to above average work, meeting minimal standards but marked with errors, and exposing gaps in student performance and/or fulfillment of the assignment.
73-77	C	
70-72	C-	
68-69	D+	“Ds” are awarded for barely passing to below average work, usually riddled with errors and seriously deficient in fulfilling the assignment.
63-67	D	
60-62	D-	
Below 60	F	“Fs” are awarded for unacceptable work.

**Interpreting the Quran:
Gender & Jihad
Syllabus**

Week 1: Introduction. The textual history of the Quran; the history and development of Quranic exegesis; definition of key terms.

Week 2: General translation issues; attitudes toward translating the Quran; history of western language translations, translations as exegesis, overview of English translations of and commentaries on the Quran.

Week 3: *Jihad*: lexical meanings of Arabic term, general usage and occurrences in the Quran, various understandings of *Jihad*

Week 4: *Fighting*: lexical meanings of the Arabic term *qital*; usage and occurrences in the Quran; *qital* as a form of *jihad*; conditions of *just war*;

Week 5: *Disbelievers/Infidels*: lexical meanings of the Arabic terms translated as *disbelievers/infidels*; usage and occurrences in the Quran; is *jihad* fighting *the infidels*?

Week 6: Differing views on *jihad*, *qital* and *infidels*

Week 7: Stories of women in the Quran: Mary, mother of Jesus; the mother of Moses; the queen of Sheba;

Week 8: Women as worshippers, religious and spiritual responsibilities.

Week 9: Women in the family: mothers, sisters, wives, and daughters.

Week 10: Legal issues: crime and punishment, serving as witnesses, dividing inheritance

Week 11: Modesty and sexuality: Women's dress and interaction between the sexes.

Week 12: Women in the public sphere.

Week 13: Review and conclusion.

Week 14: Presentation of selected student papers.

Week 15: Presentation of selected student papers