

Ottawa School of Theology and Spirituality

Course title: Women and Islam: Myths and Reality

Professor: Dr. Aliaa Dakroury
Professor and Chair
School of Social Communication
Saint Paul University

Correspondence: adakroury@ustpaul.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this session, we will explore the position of Muslim women and gender relations in contemporary societies. The course will introduce a comparative perspective to the issues of Muslim women in their homelands and diaspora. Our discussions will focus on a variety of topics, such as, but not limited to: historical, social, media and political representations of Muslim women; comparing different controversial issues within Islam (such as Muslim women's identity, veil, Muslim women in the war zones, media images, women's rights, and historical/contemporary examples of Muslim women's activism and leadership).

COURSE SCHEDULE & READINGS

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>WEEKLY TOPICS AND REQUIRED READINGS</u>
WEEK 1	January 11	<u>Introduction</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome to the class; general introduction to the course materials; overview of the topics.
WEEK 2	January 18	<u>Women Rights in Islam</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Recommended reading:</i> http://www.islamswomen.com/articles/do_muslim_women_have_rights.php
WEEK 3	January 25	<u>Muslim women Philanthropy between History and reality</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Guest speaker:</i> Fatma El Mehelmy• <i>Recommended reading:</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FETryXMpDI8
WEEK 4	February 1	<u>Status of women and family life</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Guest speaker:</i> Dr. Safa Fouda• <i>Recommended reading:</i> https://islamqa.info/en/10001
	February 8	<u>Women in the media: The Niqab debate</u>

**Location: Dominican University College
96 Empress Avenue, Ottawa, ON, K1R7G3
From 7:30 p.m to 8:30 p.m. Room TBD**

Ottawa School of Theology and Spirituality

WEEK 5

- *Guest Speaker:* Amira Elghawaby, Communications Director, National Council of Canadian Muslims
- *Recommended reading:* <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-debate/what-a-difference-a-day-makes-the-reframing-of-canadian-muslims-has-begun/article26935667/>

February 15

No Class: Family day!

WEEK 6 February 22

Muslim women and social media

- *Recommended reading:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hpsn8yE6AL0>
- *Guest speaker:* Chelby Daigle: Editor in Chief at Muslim Link

WEEK 7 February 29

Muslim women leadership between History and reality

- *Guest speaker:* Fatma El Mehelmy
- *Recommended reading:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FETryXMpDI8>

WEEK 8 March 7

Muslim Women advocacy: Oppression? Not really

- *Guest Speaker:* Khadija haffajee
- *Recommended reading:* <http://www.islamweb.net/en/article/109366/are-muslim-women-oppressed>

WEEK 9 March 14

Muslim women and rebuking the myth of Niqab

- *Guest Speaker:* Mahwash Fatima
- *Recommended reading:* <http://www.ottawasun.com/2015/09/26/ottawa-businesswoman-proud-to-war-the-niqab>

WEEK 10 March 21

Connecting Qur'anic verses to women and reality.

- *Guest Speaker:* Iman Ibrahim
- *Recommended reading:* <http://www.iiituk.com/docs/pdf/preamble-veiling-v3.pdf>