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MODL: 398: Women in Quran—A Peer Review of Teaching Project Inquiry Portfolio

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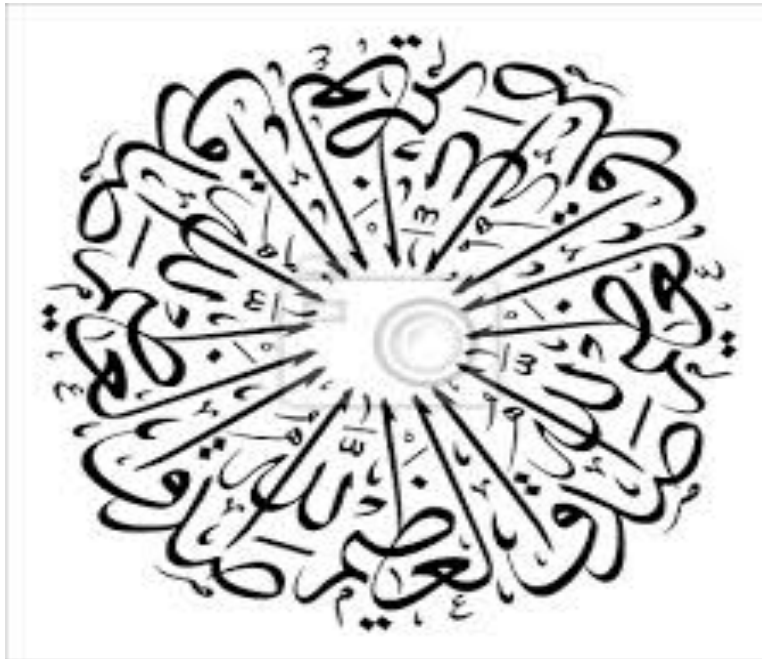
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MODL 398:

Women in Quran

A Peer Review of Teaching Project Portfolio



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Abstract

This project highlights the experience of teaching Quran as a literature through MODL 298: “*Women in Quran*”. This course is an attempt to read Quran as a diachronically approached literature and discover what would the analytic, linguistic as well as the critical study of both the Qur’anic text and its exegesis reveal when it comes to feminism and gender issues in Islam.

Key words: Islam, Quran, University of Nebraska Lincoln, Women in Islam, feminism.

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The Course

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Women in Quran

Syllabus

MODL 398

Spring 2016

To be taught for the first time at UNL!



Instructor: Prof. Abla Hasan

Time: W 1:30- 4:20 p.m.

Office: 1025 Oldfather

Office hours: M: 1:30- 5:00 p.m.

Email address: abla.hasan@unl.edu

Course Description:

This class introduces a diachronic approach to Quran as a literature, and provides an attempt to discover what would the analytic, linguistic as well as the critical study of both the Qur'anic text and its exegeses can reveal when it comes to feminism and gender issues in Islam. The instructional method is based on engaging students in discussions and encouraging them to use their analytic as well as their critical abilities in an academic environment free from ideological commitments.

Course Goals and Objectives:

- In this class students will have a chance to explore some of the most controversial and debated topics in Arabic and Islamic culture.
- Students will be encouraged to use their critical and analytical abilities as a key to discover what does Quran say about issues like gender egalitarian, sexuality, women rights, etc.
- Quran is a text globally accessed by Muslims, therefore, studying the text provides better chances of enhancing students' global awareness.
- The course will develop students comparative reading abilities, since students will be reading different medieval as well as modern commentaries of Quran, to conclude similarities as well as differences and even contradictions.
- In this course a historical approach to the development of feminine controversial issues will be considered. A special attention will be given to the historical diachronical development of the same text.
- The class introduces students to Arabic as well as western Media and the way both deal with muslim women issues, since debates about key concepts deeply rooted in Quran will be explored in media, discussed and evaluated by students.

Required Textbooks:

- Wadud, Amina, Quran and Woman: Rereading the Sacred Text from a Woman's Perspective Paperback – June 10, 1999, ISBN-10: 0195128362
- Stowasser, Barbara Freyer, Women in the Qur'an, Traditions, and Interpretation, 1996, ISBN-10: 0195111486
- M. A. S. Abdel Haleem (Translator), the Qur'an (Oxford World's Classics) Paperback – June 15, 2008.
- Jane Dammen McAuliffe, the Cambridge Companion to the Qur'ān (Cambridge Companions to Religion, 2006, ISBN-10: 1843151162
- More documents will be posted on BB.

Instructional Method

Instruction methods includes -in addition to lecturing: in -class group discussions, literature analysis, and media analysis. No late assignments will be accepted. Make sure to talk to the instructor immediately in case you had an emergency case or a serious reason for missing any of your assignments. Any compensation, if approved, should immediately take place the next class if possible.

Requirements

20% assignments, 20% presentations (can be replaced by an additional paper after talking to the instructor about that), 20% participation, 20% Final Exam, 20% final paper or project.

Grading Scale

The grading scale in percentage is: A+ 97-100, A 93-96, A- 90-92, B+ 87-89, B 83-86, B- 80-82, C+ 77-79, C 73-76, C- 70-72, D+ 67-69, D 63-66, D- 60-62.

Course Policies

Instructor contact:

If you need guidance, additional assistance or if you simply like to have further discussions other than what we do in class, please feel free to come to my office during my office hours or email me to arrange for an appointment if you prefer times other than my office hours. You can also contact the TA about any question.

Attendance policy:

Students are expected to attend **every** class, if you have a serious reason to be absent please make sure to contact **the instructor** to talk about that. Missing classes for no legitimate reason will automatically lower your final grade one grade for each absence.

Disabilities:

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact me for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodations to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.

Academic Integrity Policy:

UNL Policy of academic integrity and academic honesty applies. Please see UNL Student Code of Conduct for more information.

Cell phone and electronic device usage in class:

Using electronic device for purposes that exceed class needs can be extremely distractive and shows no appreciation to the instructor as well as to other students; therefore it is totally unacceptable to use your cell phone or your laptop for other purposes in the class. Violations will not be tolerated and every violation will reduce your final grade one degree (from A+ to A, from A to A- and so on).

Course Calendar

Day	Activity	Reading (required)
W 1/13	Introduction to reading Quran as a literature	-The Cambridge Companion to the Quran, introduction + Pp 124-128
W 1/20	Women stories in Quran A linguistic analytic study	Women in the Qur'an, Traditions, and Interpretation, the chapter of Eve. - Qur'an and Woman, chapter2. - The Qur'an (TBA)
W 1/27	Women in Quran Mary A linguistic analytic study	- Qur'an and Woman, chapter2, Mary.
W 2/3	Hijab, body ownership and modesty	- Women in the Qur'an, Traditions, and Interpretation.chapter1. - The Qur'an(selective readings TBA)
W 2/10	Marriage in Quran 1	-Qur'an and Woman, chapter4. -The Qur'an(selective readings TBA)
W 2/17	Marriage in Quran 2	-Qur'an and Woman, chapter4. -The Qur'an(selective readings TBA)
W 2/24	Polygamy in Quran	-Qur'an and Woman, chapter4. -The Qur'an(selective readings TBA)
W 3/2		

	Female genital mutilation (FGM)	-The Cambridge Companion to the Quran, chapter 4.
W 3/9	What does it mean to be a mother in Quran?	-The Cambridge Companion to the Quran, chapter 4 - The Qur'an(selective readings TBD)
W 3/16	Women issues in Islam: Witness, leadership, public life And inheritance.	-The Cambridge Companion to the Quran, chapter 4 - The Qur'an(selective readings TBD)
W 3/23	No class Spring break	
W 3/30	Honor killing	Visual material (TBA)
W 4/6	Muhammad in Quran Who was he?	Visual material (TBA)
W 4/13	Student presentations 1	
W 4/20	Students presentations 2	
TBA	Exam+ final paper due	



Course Inquiry

This course was taught at UNL for the first time. It is an attempt to encourage students to use their analytic as well as their critical thinking abilities to read Quran in isolation from preconceptions and media created views. Two surveys were used to help insure an objective reading. First, students taking the course were asked to answer questions about the status of women in Quran. Then they were asked to answer the same questions towards the end of the semester. The second study targeted the overall attitude of students of UNL.

The purpose of the two surveys is to objectively assess students' readiness to be involved in an analytic reading of a religious text and to find out to what degree they are influenced by media when it comes to women issues in Islam.

Inquiry Methods

Women in Quran: Pre-Course Survey

Prophet Muhammed had 10-20 wives	I strongly agree a	I agree	I disagree	I strongly disagree	I don't know	NA
Ayesha the most beloved wife was 9 when married to the prophet						
Quran supports minor marriage						
Islam supports minor Marriage						
Quran supports limited polygamy						
Islam supports limited polygamy						
Some Muslim marital practices don't reflect true Islam						
"Strik them" (4:34) in Quran promotes martial violence						

(4:34) does speak about women but doesn't promote marital violence						
Islam is misogynist						
Arabic culture is misogynist						
There is a problem in interpreting Quran on women issues						
There is no problem in Islamic interpretation, the problem is only in Western media						
The Islamic view of Mary needs to be reevaluated						
Muslim women rights in Islam are not fully understood						
Islamic jurisprudence is not fair to women						
There are restrictions on women work in Islam						
I feel know everything about women in Quran						
I feel I know everything about women in Islam						
The status of women in Islam doesn't correspond to Quran						
Islamic attitude of gender issues needs to be reformed						
Some translations of Quran are not correct						
Some interpretations of Quran are not correct						
I find some difficulties in understanding Quran						
Quran is a complicated book						
Quran is an interesting book						
Polygamy has its justification in Quran						
Muslim women should accept polygamy as part of their religion						
Wife beating is mentioned in Quran						
Adultery stoning is an Islamic punishment						

Sodomy stoning is an Islamic punishment						
The story of creation in Quran is the same like in the Bible						
Hijab is an Islamic duty						
Niqab is an Islamic duty						
Muslims need to reconsider marital rights of women						
Gender based roles of women and men are Islamic						
In Islam a woman shouldn't work unless she needs to work for an economic hardship						
Hijab is a discrimination against women						
The story of Moses in Quran supports based on gender division of roles						
Quran is the most reliable source in Islam						
Quran and Sunnah both are reliable sources in Islam						
The prophet didn't accept to keep his old wife "Sawda" until she gave her day to his young wife "Ayesha"						
The prophet had special sexual powers						
The prophet marriages were divine						
The prophet was excused from marriage related duties like dowry, number of wives restricted to 4, witnesses..etc						
The prophet did fall in love with "Zaynab" before she became his wife.						

Women in Quran: End of Course Survey

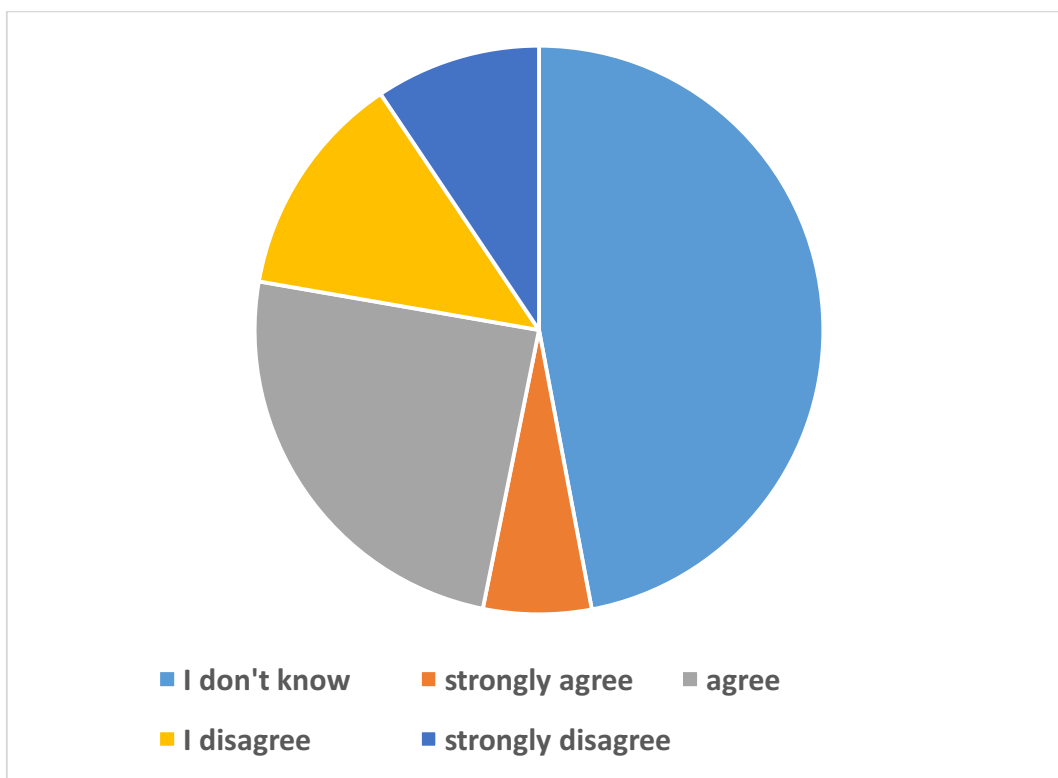
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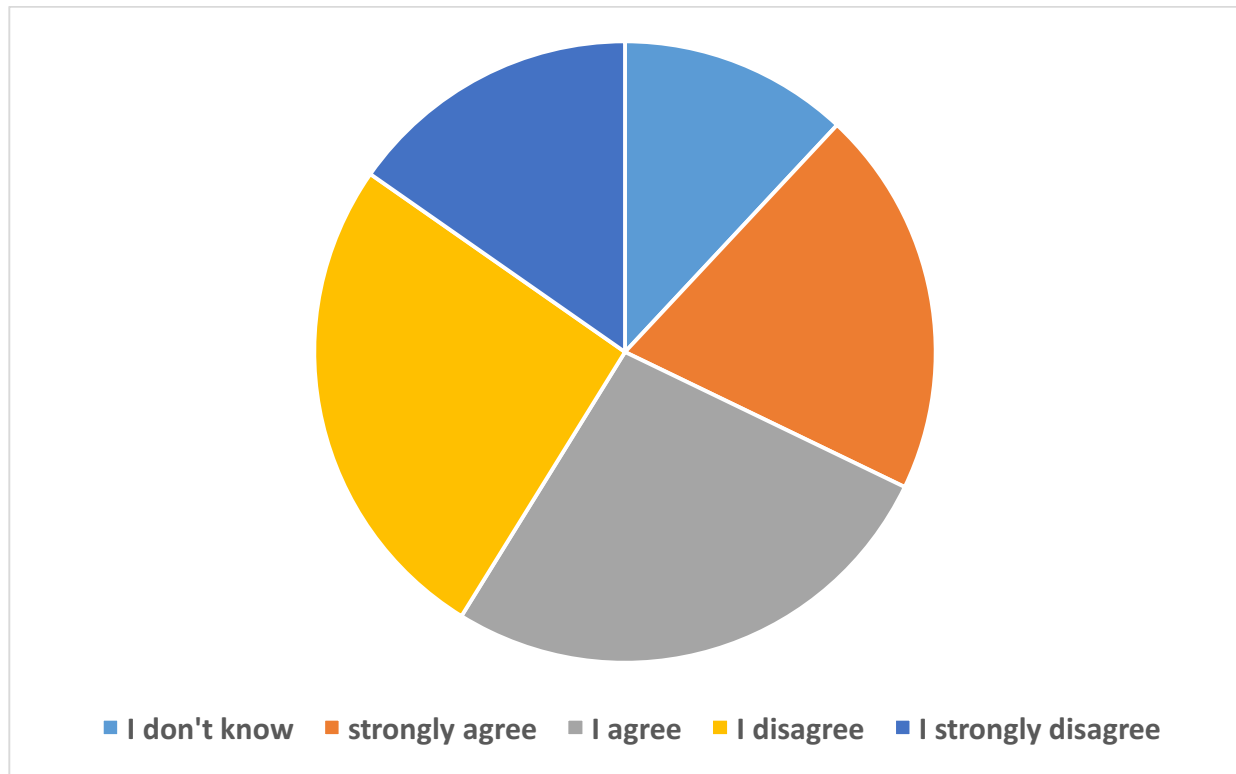
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Inquiry Results

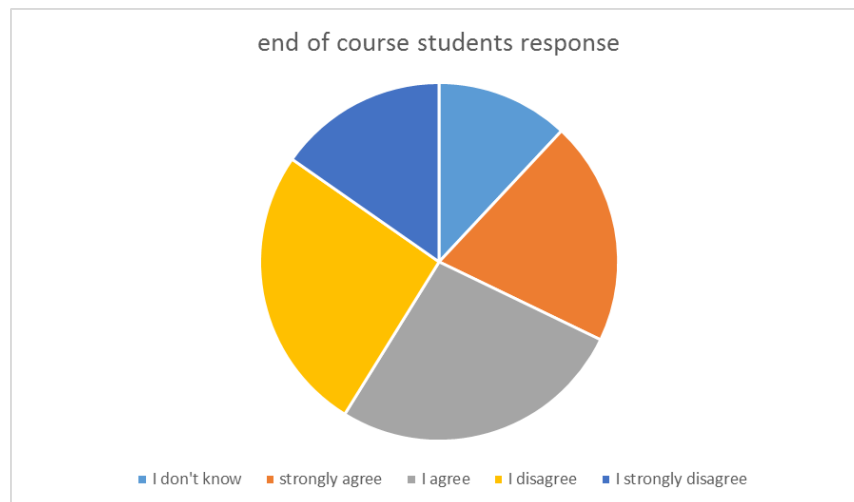
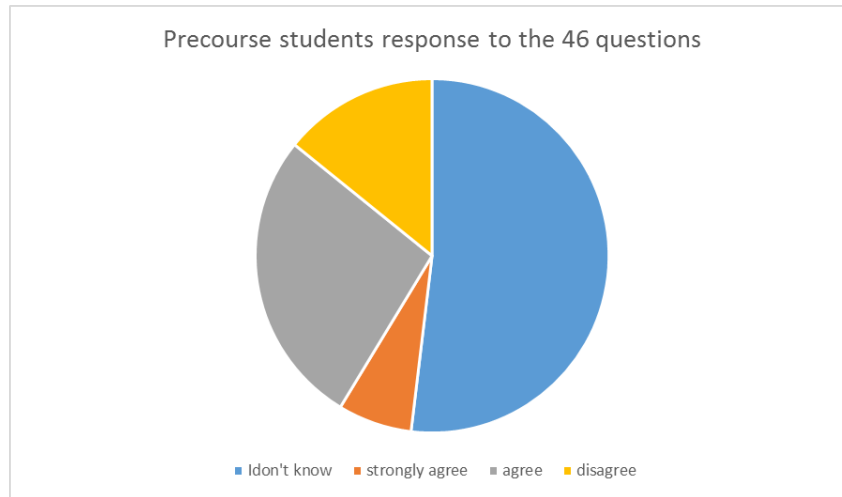
Pre- Course Survey Analysis



End of Course Student Survey Analysis



Visual Analysis of Pre-Course /End of Course Survey



Discussion

The course study (12 students) confirmed a decline in “I don’t know” response (from % 44 to % 11) and more readiness to provide strongly agree answers (from %5 to %18) and strongly disagree answers (from% 8 to %14).