

Muslim Public Speaking: History and Practice (AM-654)

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Class Location and Time

June 13 – June 24, Monday through Friday, 4 PM to 7 PM; Synchronous Online via Zoom

Description

This course focuses on contemporary and past Muslim homiletics. Our approach is both descriptive and practical. For those interested in Muslim spoken discourses as an academic subject, the course offers a chance to learn about the subject from historical and anthropological perspectives. Our examples will be from the United States, the Middle East, and beyond. For those who are or plan to be Muslim public speakers, the course offers extensive practical exercises designed to develop and improve their skills as public speakers.

Course fulfills the following curricular requirements:

MAIRS - Islamic Studies: Beliefs and Practices

MAIRS - Interreligious Studies: Elective

MAC - Islamic Chaplaincy elective

Coursework and Assessment

- Each student is required to read **all the material assigned for Week 1 of the course ahead of time**.

By 12:00 pm on Friday, June 10, each student will submit the following three documents as attachments to tyuskaev@hartfordinternational.edu:

- 1) Reading notes of Richard Antoun, *Muslim Preacher in the Modern World*, Preface, Introduction and Chapters 1 through 5. The notes should be 3-4 pages long.
- 2) A reflection on ONE aspect of the book that the student finds most useful for their study or their practice of public speaking. This reflection should be 3-4 pages long (Times New Roman, 12 font, double space)
- 3) A short one paragraph statement that identifies an online video of one Muslim lecture or sermon the student would like to analyze in class. Provide a link to the material.

- Each day in the class will include opportunities for students' independent and group work.
- Each student will be expected to present their analysis of texts and video/audio material discussed in class during one of the sessions.
- Attendance in each class and active participation are required. Since this is an intensive class, no absences are allowed.
- **Each student will have a choice between two final assignments:**
 - 1) **Final paper**, 10-12 pages in length, **due by the end of the day on July 8**. Please submit the papers by email to tyuskaev@hartfordinternational.edu.

The paper's subject and other logistics will be discussed in class.

- 2) **A public speech:** deliver a sermon or lecture, record it as a video, and submit the video to me as on **July 17**. In addition to the video, submit a 3 to 5-page reflection on the speech.

Additional parameters of this assignment will be discussed in class.

Grading standards:

A = Excellent. Excellent presentation and analysis that demonstrates original interpretation.

B = Good. Solid command of facts and good attempt at analysis.

C+ = Adequate in the sense of doing minimal compliance with the assignment.

C = Poor; did not complete the assignment adequately but shows some effort.

F = Failing; did not complete the assignment.

- **Grading criteria for the course:**
 - Preliminary work – notes, reflection, paragraph on a sample (20%)
 - Two class presentations (20%)
 - Class participation (20%)
 - Final essay or public speech (40%)

Required Texts

All of the readings, audio files and links are posted in CANVAS. After registration, please log into the class CANVAS site and begin reading and listening to the following texts and speeches (please email tyuskaev@hartfordinternational.edu if they are not yet available for some reason):

Week 1:

- 1) Richard T. Antoun, *Muslim Preacher in the Modern World: a Jordanian Case Study in Comparative Perspective* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1989) – Preface, Introduction and Chapters 1 through 5 are posted in CANVAS; the book is available via DTL [note: Chapter 4 is the heart of the book. Read it carefully.]
- 2) Wael Alkhairo, *Speaking for Change: A Guide to Making Effective Friday Sermons (Khuṭbāt)* (Beltsville, MD: Amana Publications, 1998) – posted in CANVAS
- 3) Steven C. Caton, “What is an ‘Authorizing Discourse’?,” in David Scott and Charles Hirschkind, ed., *Powers of the Secular Modern: Talal Asad and His Interlocutors* (Stanford University Press, 2006) – posted in CANVAS; book available via DTL
- 4) Michael M.J. Fischer and Mehdi Abedi, Chapter 2, “Texts, Con-texts, and Pre-texts”, from *Debating Muslims: Cultural Dialogues in Postmodernity and Tradition* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1990), pp. 95-149 – posted in CANVAS; book available via DTL:
- 5) Online video of Ingrid Mattson’s speech at ISNA 2015 – posted in CANVAS and available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohGuU6iZ3Dw&list=PLAqEgNeiPAEuwjlgoduPH9hitIt0wHxxM&index=8> (Mattson’s speech begins at minute 35)

Week 2:

- 6) Timur R. Yuskaev, Chapter 3, “Redemption,” from *Speaking Qur’an: an American Scripture* (University of South Carolina Press, 2017) – posted in CANVAS; book available via DTL
- 7) Audio recording of Warith Deen Mohammed, “Live in Harlem, NY. New Africa: A New Mind, A New Life, A New Beginning for Black People in America.” (2003) – posted in CANVAS.
- 8) Yuskaev, Chapter 4, “Politics,” from Yuskaev, *Speaking Qur’an* – available in CANVAS; book is available via DTL
- 9) Online video of Hamza Yusuf, “Give and Take for God’s Sake” – posted in CANVAS (and easy to find online, search for “Hamza Yusuf Give and Take for God’s Sake”)
- 10) Sarah Sayeed, “Moving From Walls to Bridges” – posted in CANVAS

Schedule

Monday, June 13

Readings: Antoun, *Muslim Preacher* (prepare for the discussion by looking over your notes and the book's Preface, Introduction and Chapters 1 through 5)

Agenda: Course logistics, discussion, student reflections

Tuesday, June 14

Reading: Alkhairo, *Speaking for Change*

Agenda: Public speaking workshop, student reflections and samples of speeches

Wednesday, June 15

Reading: Caton, "What is an 'Authorizing Discourse'?"

Agenda: Discussion of the article, student reflections and samples of speeches

Thursday, June 16

Reading: Fischer and Abedi, Chapter 2, "Texts, Con-texts, and Pre-texts",

Agenda: Discussion and public speaking workshop

Friday, June 17

Listening: Ingrid Mattson's speech at ISNA 2015

Agenda: Discussion and public speaking workshop

Monday, June 20

Reading: Yuskaev, Chapter 3, “Redemption”

Listening: Imam W.D. Mohammed, “Live in Harlem”

Agenda: Discussion

Tuesday, June 21

Agenda: Public speaking workshop, student reflections and samples of speeches

Wednesday, June 22

Reading: Yuskaev, Chapter 4, “Politics”

Listening: Hamza Yusuf, “Give and Take”

Agenda: Discussion and public speaking workshop

Thursday, June 23

Reading: Sarah Sayeed, “Moving From Walls to Bridges”

Agenda: Discussion and public speaking workshop

Friday, June 24

Agenda: public speaking workshop, discussion

Finals are due on **July 8** (if papers) and **July 17** (if a speech and reflection)

Submit to tyuskaev@hartfordinternational.edu