“We are all prodigal sons of a homeland that we cannot even define but which we are beginning at last to observe. She is Castilian and Moorish, with Aztec markings.”
(Octavio Paz, *El laberinto de la soledad*, 153)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**
This course begins with 1492, the fall of Muslim Spain, and the journey of Christopher Columbus to the New World—opening the continent to Iberian colonization. We then move to the trans-Atlantic slave trade that brought the first Muslim populations from West Africa to Latin America. We explore particularly how certain traditions, rituals, and identity markers persisted through time, even as they were reformed within new contexts. We also look at other voyages of discovery, especially by the Ottomans, before moving on to modern migration from the Levant, from Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine. The class then examines the Jewish diaspora and how it shaped the cultural, ethnic, and political history of Latin America. We end by exploring the cross-fertilization of cultures, homelands, and identities via transecting histories and migration patterns through the creative fusion of poetry, music, film, literature, and art.

**MAIN TEXTS**
- Habeeb Akande, *Illuminating the Blackness: Blacks and African Muslims in Brazil*
- Frank Korom, *Hosay Trinidad: Maharram Performances in an Indo-Caribbean Diaspora*
- Jeffrey Lesser, *Immigration, Ethnicity, and National Identity in Brazil, 1808 to the Present* (e-book)
- Jeffrey Lesser, *Welcoming the Undesirables: Brazil and the Jewish Question* (e-book)
- Anouar Majid, *We Are All Moors: Ending Centuries of Crusades against Muslims and Other Minorities* (e-book)
- João José Reis, *Slave Rebellion in Brazil: The Muslim Uprising of 1835 in Bahia*
- Theresa Alfaro-Velcamp, *So Far from Allah, So Close to Mexico: Middle Eastern Immigrants to Modern Mexico*
UNIT 1:  1492, COLUMBUS, and THE AMERICAS
• Anouar Majid, *We Are All Moors: Ending Centuries of Crusades against Muslims and Other Minorities*
  Chapter 1: “Pious Cruelty”
  Chapter 2: “New World Moors”
  Chapter 3: “Muslim Jews”
• Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*
  Chapter 4: “Good Day, Columbus,” pp. 108-140
• María Rosa Menocal, “al-Andalus and 1492: The Ways of Remembering” in *The Legacy of Muslim Spain*, ed. Salma Jayyusi
• Carlos Fuentes, *The Buried Mirror: Reflections on Spain and the New World*
  Chapter 4: “1492: The Crucial Year,” pp. 79-92
  Chapter 5: “The Rise and Fall of the Indian World,” pp. 93-118
  Chapter 6: “The Conquest and Reconquest of the New World,” pp. 119-150
• Hisham Aidi, “‘The Interference of al-Andalus,’” *Social Text*
• Hisham Aidi, “‘Let Us Be Moors’: Islam, Race, and ‘Connected Histories,’” *Middle East Research and Information Report (MERIP)* 2003

SUGGESTED:
• Carol Delaney, *Columbus and the Quest for Jerusalem: How Religion Drove the Voyages that Led to America*

UNIT 2:  MOORISH TRACES IN THE NEW WORLD
• Karoline P. Cook, *Forbidden Passages: Muslims and Moriscos in Colonial Spanish America*
• Rukhsana Qamber, “Inquisition Proceedings Against Muslims in 16th Century Latin America” in *Islamic Studies*

SUGGESTED:
• Giancarlo Casale, *The Ottoman Age of Exploration* (e-book), Introduction
• Thomas Goodrich, *The Ottoman Turks and the New World: Sixteenth Century Americana*

UNIT 3:  MUSLIM SLAVES IN LATIN AMERICA
• Sylviane Diouf, *Servants of Allah: African Muslims Enslaved in the Americas*
• Habeeb Akande, *Illuminating the Blackness: Blacks and African Muslims in Brazil*
  pp. 1-11, 43-58
  pp. 167-204
  pp. 213-236

DOCUMENTARY FILM and WEBSITE:
“A Prince Among Slaves”
• [http://princeamongslaves.org/](http://princeamongslaves.org/)

SUGGESTED:
• João José Reis, *Slave Rebellion in Brazil: The Muslim Uprising of 1835 in Bahia*

UNIT 4:  MUSLIMS AND INDENTURED SERVITUDE
• Aisha Khan, *Callaloo Nation: Metaphors of Race and Religious Identity Among South Asians in Trinidad*
• Frank Korom, *Hosay Trinidad: Muharram Performances in an Indo-Caribbean Diaspora*
  Chapter 4: “Onward to the Caribbean,” pp. 97-127
  Chapter 5: “Building the Tadjah, Constructing Community,” pp. 129-194
  Conclusion: “Maintenance and Transformation via Cultural Creolization,” pp. 195-231

DOCUMENTARY: “Hosay Trinidad,” director John M. Bishop
UNIT 5: ARAB MIGRATIONS

• Akram Khater, Inventing Home: Emigration, Gender, and the Middle Class in Lebanon, 1870-1920
  Chapter 3: “Emigration,” pp. 48-70
  Chapter 4: “The Mahjar,” pp. 71-107
• Theresa Alfaro-Velcamp, So Far from Allah, So Close to Mexico: Middle Eastern Immigrants to Modern Mexico (e-book)

SUGGESTED:
Steven Hyland, More Argentine than You: The Syrian-Lebanese in Northwestern Argentina, PhD diss

DOCUMENTARY FILM:
Cedars Among the Pines
http://video.unctv.org/video/2303678785/

DIGITAL ARCHIVE:
Moise A. Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies
http://lebanesestudies.omeka.chass.ncsu.edu/

UNIT 6: JEWS and MUSLIMS

• Jeffrey Lesser, Immigration, Ethnicity, and National Identity in Brazil, 1808 to the Present
• Jeffrey Lesser, Welcoming the Undesirables: Brazil and the Jewish Question
• Ella Shohat, “The Sephardi-Moorish Atlantic: Between Orientalism and Occidentalism” in Between the Middle East and the Americas: The Cultural Politics of Diaspora

SUGGESTED:
• Raanan Rein, Argentine Jews or Jewish Argentines? Ethnicity, Identity, and Diaspora

UNIT 7: PALESTINIANS in SOUTH AMERICA

• Darío Euraque, “Nation Formation, Mestizaje and Arab-Palestinian Immigration to Honduras, 1880-1930s” in Critique: Critical Middle East Studies
• Martha Vanessa Saldívar, “From Mexico to Palestine: An Occupation of Knowledge, a Mestizaje of Methods” in American Quarterly
• Ignácio Klich, “The Chimera of Palestinian Resettlement in Argentina in the Early Aftermath of the First Arab-Israeli War and Other Similarly Fantastical Notions” in The Americas
• Manzar Foroohar, “Palestinians in Central America: From Temporary Emigrants to a Permanent Diaspora”
• José I. Fusté, “Containing Bordered ‘Others’ in La Frontera and Gaza”
• Cecilia Baeza, “Palestinians in Latin America,” Journal of Palestine Studies
• Siri Schwabe, “Playing for Palestine in Santiago de Chile” http://muftah.org/playing-palestine-santiago-de-chile/#.V8SPnJMrJE4

DOCUMENTARY FILMS:
• “Palestina al sur (Palestine in the South),” director Ana María Hurtado
• “Christian Palestine in Chile,” director Hebat-Allah El Attar

UNIT 8: RELIGIOUS REVIVALISM and CONVERSION

• Hjamil A. Martínez-Vázquez, Latina/o y Musulmán: The Construction of Latina/o Identity among Latina/o Muslims in the United States
  Chapter 1: “Telling the Story of U.S. Latina/o Muslim Experience,” pp. 15-45
  Chapter 3: “Dis-covering: Reversion and Memory,” pp. 74-103
UNIT 9: LITERARY LANDSCAPES, LITERARY TRACES
I. THE NOVEL & SHORT STORY
   • Christina Civantos, Between Argentines and Arabs: Argentine Orientalism, Arab Immigrants, and the Writing Identity
   Part II: “Writing the Orient to Write the Self,” pp. 75-140

   A. ARGENTINA
   • Jorge Luis Borges, The Aleph
   • Ian Almond, “Borges: The Post-Orientalist,” in Modern Fiction Studies
   • Paulo Coelho, Aleph

   B. BRAZIL
   • Raduan Nassar, Ancient Tillage
   • Silvia C. Ferreira, “Excavating Mashriqi Roots in the Mahjar: Agriculture and Assimilation in Raduan Nassar’s Lavoura Arcaica” in Mashriq & Mahjar
   FILM: “Lavoura Arcaica,” director Luiz Fernando Carvalho

II. POETRY
   • Alberto Mussa, The Riddle of Qaf
   • Waïl S. Hassan, “Arab-Brazilian Literature: Alberto Mussa’s Mu‘allaqa and South-South Dialogue,” in Paul Amar, The Middle East and Brazil

UNIT 10: MUSIC and ART
   • Hisham Aidi, Rebel Music: Race, Empire, and the New Muslim Youth Culture,
     Chapter 1: “The Enchanted Mooress” and Chapter 2: “Sugar’s Secrets”
   • Solange Farkas, “The Growing Presence of Brazilian Art in the Middle East,” Art Radar
   • Videobrasil Collection, http://www.videobrasil.org.br/
     watch videos by Walid Raad, Bouchra Khalili, Akram Zaatari, Rabih Mroué, and Malek Bensmaïl