Rashida Tlaib & Ilhan Omer, newly elected US Congresswomen

Women, Gender, and Islam

WGST 227/RLGN 227

MW 12:45-2:00 PM

SPRING 2019

PROFESSOR JUSTINE HOWE

Course description

Women and gender are central to understanding Muslim societies, past and present. From debates about the veil to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, gendered concerns have been especially prominent in contemporary debates about the status of Islam in the modern world. This course uses gender to explore the rich diversity of Muslim life in global contexts, exploring questions such as: How have Muslim thinkers interpreted Islamic scriptures with respect to topics such as marriage, child custody, inheritance, and sexuality? In what ways do their interpretations reflect the political, economic, and social conditions in which they lived? How does gender structure authority, agency, and power in Muslim communities? Why have Muslim women become so important to contemporary debates over religious and national identity around the world?

No prerequisites and no prior knowledge of Islam is expected.

Fulfills Global Cultural Diversity Requirement