

Community College of Philadelphia

**U. S. Department of Education Title VI:  
The Middle East and Cross-Regional Connections**

**Summer Seminar May 10 – June 10, 2004**

**Center for Business and Industry 18<sup>th</sup> and Callowhill  
C-3-5**

**Week One**

**Monday, May 10. Dr. Barbara Stowasser, Professor, Department of Arabic and Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University, Washington, D. C.**

**Morning Session: Women in the Qur'an: Tradition and Interpretation  
[Open session in collaboration with University of Pennsylvania Middle East Center]**

**Reading:** Barbara Stowasser Women in the Qur'an Oxford Univ. Press

**Afternoon Session: The Qur'an and Gender**

**Readings:**

"Islam and Gender: Dilemmas in the Changing Arab World" and "Gender Issues and Contemporary Quran Interpretation" from Islam, Gender and Social Change edited by Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad and John L. Esposito, New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1998.

Asma Barlas 'Believing Women' in Islam Univ. of Texas Press

Amina Wadud Qur'an and Woman Oxford Univ. Press.

**Tuesday, May 11. Jeffrey Tigay, University of Pennsylvania;**

**Morning Session: Gilgamesh as Archeological, Religious and Literary Text**

**Readings**

Introduction from The Evolution of the Gilgamesh Epic by Jeffrey H. Tigay. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Publisher: Bolchazy Carducci; (April 2003)

**Afternoon Session: Comparison of Biblical and Mesopotamian Flood Stories**

**Readings**

"Flood" Article in Illustrated Dictionary and Concordance of the Bible. Ed. Wigoder et al. (New York: Macmillan): "Flood," pp. 357-360. 1986.

"On Evaluating Claims of Literary Borrowing," in The Tablet and the Scroll. Near Eastern Studies in Honor of William W. Hallo, ed. Mark

Cohen, Daniel C. Snell, and David B. Weisberg (Bethesda MD: CDL Press:), pp. 250-255.

Recommended: Myths from Mesopotamia: Creation, the Flood, Gilgamesh, and Others (Oxford World's Classics: 1998) Stephanie Dalley, Editor, C. J. Fordyce

**Wednesday, May 12. David Prejsnar, History and Philosophy Department, Community College of Philadelphia “Zoroastrianism” (Morning Session)**

**Readings:**

Mary Boyce, “Zoroaster the Priest,” from Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, vol. 33, No. 1 (1970), 22-38.

Excerpts from “Zoroastrianism,” Scriptures of the World's Religions, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. James Fiesert and John Powers, McGraw Hill, 2004.

**We will have a brown-bag lunch to discuss themes of the first week and review expectations for course modules.**

**Thursday, May 13 Dr. S. Tamar Kamionkowski, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College**

**Morning Session: Gender Studies and the Hebrew Bible: Modern and Post-Modern Approaches**

**Readings:**

Phyllis Trible, “Depatriarchalizing in Biblical Interpretation,” Journal of the American Academy of Religion 41 (1973): 30-47

Athalya Brenner, “On Reading the Hebrew Bible as Feminist Woman: Introduction to the Series,” in A Feminist Companion to the Song of Songs, 1993, pp. 11-27.

**Afternoon: Analysis of Biblical Texts**

**Readings:**

Hosea 1-3

Ezekiel 16 and 23

Isaiah 54:1-10

## Week Two

**Monday May 17 Pardis Minucmehr, Lecturer of Persian Language and Literature, University of Pennsylvania;**

### **Morning Session: Persian Narrative/Romance**

#### **Readings:**

Norton Anthology: Introduction and Time Line  
Abolqasem Ferdowsi (932-1025) "The Story of Sohrab" from Shahname (Norton)  
"Ghazal: The Ideals of Love" from Julie Scott Meisani" Medieval Persian Court Poetry  
Excerpt from a Persian Romantic Poem by Nizami 1197  
"The Ideal Beloved" from Layli and Majnun: Love Madness, and Mystic Longing in Nizami's Epic Romance by Ali Asghar Seyed-Gohrab  
Frame story from "The Thousand and One Nights" from Norton labeled 14<sup>th</sup> Century  
"Otherness and Otherworldliness: Edward W. Lane's Arabian Nights" chapter by Jennifer Schacker

### **Afternoon Session: Sufi Mysticism and Rumi**

**Readings:** Tales from The Masnavi" Trans. Arberry  
"More Tales from the Masnavi" Trans. Arberry  
Poems from Rumi the Book of Love Trans. Coleman Barks  
Rumi: The Person and the Poet" by Fatemeh Keshavarz

**Tuesday May 18, Richard Bulliet, Professor of History, Columbia University;**

**Morning Session: Early views of Persia**

**Afternoon Session: Conversion process to Islam In the Iraq/Iran area**

**Wednesday May 19. Richard Bulliet. [Open Session in collaboration with University of Pennsylvania Middle East Center]**

**Morning Session: "Urbanization and Culture in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Century Iran"**

**Afternoon Session: Introduction to Shiite Islam in Iran 9<sup>th</sup> Century to Present.**

**Reading:** Richard Bulliet. Islam: The View from the Edge

**Thursday May 20. Marie Swietochowski, Curator-Emeritas, Islamic Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York**

**Morning Session: Introduction to Persian Miniatures: Historical and Aesthetic Perspectives**

**Afternoon Session: 16<sup>th</sup> Century Illustrations of the Shanahmeh**

### **Week Three**

**Wednesday, May 26. Cathlyn Mariscotti, Assistant Professor of History Department, Holy Family College.**

**Morning Session: Theory and Controversy in Academic Approaches to the Middle East: Debate of Edward Said and Bernard Lewis: 'Orientalism'**

**Readings:** Introduction to Said's Orientalism

- "The Question of Orientalism" by Bernard Lewis

- "Between Orientalism and Historicism by Aijaz Ahmad. From Macfie, ed.

Orientalism: A Reader.

Dan Varisco. "East Vs. West, Orient vs. Occident: The Binary that Haunts Orientalism and the Clash of Civilizations"

**Afternoon Session : Introduction to Twentieth Century Arab Nationalism.**

**Readings:** Zachary Lockman: "Exploring the Field: Lost Voices and Emerging Practices in Egypt, 1882-1914" and Juan R. I. Cole, " Shaikh al-Ra'is and Sultan Abdulhamid II: The Iranian Dimension of Pan-Islam". from Histories of the Modern Middle East (New Directions 2002.

**Thursday, May 27. Ayala Guy, Instructor of Hebrew, Temple University**

**Morning and Afternoon Sessions: Fiction of Israel: 1949 to present.**

**Readings:** Selections from Sleepwalkers and Other Stories: The Arab in Hebrew Fiction, ed. Ehud Ben-Ezer. Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 1999.

### **Week Four**

**Wednesday June 2: Jerry M. Kutnick, Dean for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor History and Jewish Thought, Gratz College,**

**Morning Session: History of Modern Zionism: 1870-1919**

Reading: "The Rise of Zionism" from Howard Sachar, The Course of

Modern Jewish History

Ben Halpern, "Zionism" Encyclopedia of Social Sciences, Vol. 17.

**Afternoon Session: Zionism and Jewish-Arab Relations: 1907-1949**

Reading: Yitzhak Epstein, "The Hidden Question" Jews in the Modern World, Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, eds.

Thursday, June 3

Choice of bus trip to Sackler Gallery, Washington, D. C. or Exhibit of Persian Miniatures, Philadelphia Museum of Art.

**Week Five**

**Monday, May 7, 2004. Robert Vitalis, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania.**

**Morning Session: "Understanding 20<sup>th</sup> Century Middle East: The Case of Saudi Arabia and the Role of Oil"**

**Reading:** Robert Vitalis, "Black Gold, White Crude: An Essay on American Exceptionalism, Hierarchy, and Hegemony in the Gulf" Diplomatic History Spring 2002.

Afternoon Session: "Understanding Current U. S. Policy in Iraq"

**Readings:** Francis Fukuyama. "Nation-Building 101." Atlantic Monthly, January-February, 2004.

James Fallows. "Blind into Baghdad: The U. S. Occupation of Iraq. . ." Atlantic Monthly. January-February, 2004.

**Tuesday, May 8, 2004. Michael Sells, Professor of Religion, Haverford College.**

**Morning Session: A Literary and Cultural Background to the Qur'an.**

**Reading:** Michael Sells. Desert Tracings: Six Classical Arabian Odes (1989)

**Afternoon Session: Introduction to the Qur'an**

**Reading:** Michael Sells. *Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations*. 1999.

**Wednesday, May 9. Professor Sells**

**Morning:** Teaching the Qur'an on the college level.

**Reading and CD:** Approaching the Qur'an

**Afternoon:** Teaching About Contemporary Islamic Society through Fiction

**Readings:** Taleb Salib *The Wedding of Zein*

Michael Sells. "The Wedding of Zein: Islam through a Modern Novel." From Teaching Islam, ed. Brannon M. Wheeler.