

GROUP PROJECT:

(By the end of the second week you need to form your three-member group)

IMPORTANT NOTE: This course is about “Islam” in relation to “Modernity”. Your topic should demonstrate this relationality as it comes to bear upon your particular group project. A project undertaken without this awareness and application of it to the study will be deemed incomplete. Below, I provide *a brief illustration* which should give you a sense of what I mean by this note. Research topic of gender must incorporate three aspects: gender in the modern age/modernity; gender in premodern Islam; and the debate surrounding gender in contemporary Islamic thought and Muslim societies. “The kinds of readings” needed to address these **THREE** aspects for example will be:

Modernity, 122-148, 343-392; *Islam in the World*, 619-680; *Islam in Transition*, 157-177, 184-202, 212-215; Nasr “Male and Female” (*Islam in the Modern World*) Lumbard, Ch. 7; *Who Speaks*, Ch. 4

SUBMISSIONS: VARIOUS COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT

1. **RESOURCES for the Study of your Topic (5% of the grade):** For that you will turn in an *annotated* blog-like page documentation/bibliography of the following:
 - a. Academic books, journal articles and other materials that qualify as “scholarly”
 - b. Multimedia: images, audio, videos etc.
 - c. Popular stuff: news items, op-eds, blogs, interviews, and non-scholarly works
 - d. Statistical data, surveys, and polls

2. **10-page GROUP PAPER (5%, Instructions for the Group Research paper):**
 - i. Topic/Question, why you chose it, its relevance/significance, who's the audience for your research, and whose question is it? Explain how and why each of the group member is interested in it? How is your topic related to the course?
 - ii. Research methodology: How did you research your question? How do you know it was an appropriate way for finding answers to your question? In sum, clarify and justify your approach to research. Be concrete.
 - iii. Research process: its different elements, and in what order they were completed. Make sure the process is consistent with your methodology.
 - iv. Typology: Compare, contrast and provide a typology of the various positions on your topic and question *within the academic sources*. Identify concretely who holds

a certain position and why? This section is very important; there has to be a way of classifying various positions into some sort of scheme that your reader could make sense of and draw his or her own conclusions.

- v. What did you find in the *popular media* (see 1c above) on the same subject, how it contrasts with your findings? Why (if so) there is a gap between your findings and what is found in the popular media?
- vi. If available, discuss *the statistical data and polls* that are relevant to your research.
- vii. Your Findings/Conclusions - challenges or potential rebuttals to your research
- viii. Analyze and explain any discrepancies between your findings within the academic study, popular media and the stats (iv, v & vi).
- ix. Where to now? Unresolved questions, confusions, paradoxes etc. If you were to pursue the topic further what would you do?
- x. How your project relates to the course? Have *at least three significant points* you will make to your classmates with whom you have shared for the whole semester discussion on “Islam in the modern age”.

3. **Group Reflections on the PROCESS (5%)**

NOTE: These reflections are separate (not part of the paper length prescribed) and should not be more than 1-2 pages

- a. Discussion notes/thread and significant points discussed, debated and choices made during the thinking or writing process
- b. Reflections on the process of group research, where it helped, where it hindered etc. (list briefly as points)
- c. What did you learn or got out of this project, individually and as a group?

4. **PREZI PRESENTATION (see below) - a copy will be submitted to the instructor**

THE PREZI PRESENTATION (10%)

1. You will basically discuss number 1 and 2 above in the classroom.
2. **DO NOT OVERWHELM YOUR AUDIENCE:** Time limit on the one hand, and human ability to absorb information to a certain limit on the other should guide your selection of what should be in and what should be out.
3. **MAKE IT IMPORTANT, INTERESTING & BE CREATIVE:** Employ images, audio/video etc. for your presentation of the topic.

4. TIME LIMIT: **Strictly 25 min** (20 min =presentation; 5 min Q&A)
5. CONCLUDING INSIGHTS: Leave your audience with concrete points that reflect your own synthesis and conclusions on the subject.

GROUP INTERVIEW (10%):

The final week of the class, your group will be interviewed during an hour-long meeting.

DEADLINES & OTHER INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GROUP PROJECT:

- *You are strongly recommended to see me as a group in my office hours once per two weeks.*
- The Group Paper and the Resources Page will be submitted via email (no hardcopy).
- PREZI presentation will be submitted on a USB during our interview meeting.
- For your final grade, I will also assess the overall quality of the process of research.

DEADLINES:

- *By March 10:* Receive APPROVAL of the Topic & Submit BLOG/RESOURCES
- *April 30:* Submit GROUP PAPER & *“Updated”* BLOG/RESOURCES
- Group INTERVIEW & PREZI Presentation = Will be scheduled