COURSE DESCRIPTION
While Charles Martel is said to have heroically “saved” France from invading Muslims in 732, today, France has the highest percentage of Muslims in Europe. This interdisciplinary course draws from the fields of history, political science, sociology, and international studies to examine the fraught relations between France and the Muslim world over the centuries. The class will be broken up into two sections. In the first section, it will look at France’s historical presence in the Arab world and the consequent Muslim presence in France. In the second section, it will focus on French society today and evaluate the socio-political integration process of French Muslims. Topics covered include colonization and decolonization, Islamic heritage and its clash with the French secularizing mission, and political policies on Muslims in France such as the heated issue over the veil. Students will investigate these topics from a variety of sources, ranging from historical documents and cultural criticism to journalistic and cinematic expressions. 4.0 credits. Suggested subject areas for this course: History/Political Science/Sociology

COURSE MATERIALS
Course Reader [CR]

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Attendance at lectures and site visits is mandatory. It is essential that you attend all classes and participate actively. As per the UC Attendance Policy, excessive absences and tardies will result in a lowered final grade. Please refer to the UC Perspectives on the Global City Program Academic Handbook for the policy on absences and tardies.

Participation and reading assignments are critical. For the purposes of this class, participation means reading the materials in advance, coming to class on time, staying for the entire class period, and actively taking part in discussions and other in-class exercises and activities. A large part of this portion of your grade is simply paying attention; in order to pay attention, you must be present! Lateness and absences will have a strong negative effect on your participation grade.

Assignments: Deadlines for assignments are to be respected. There will be NO extensions on assignments, nor will there be any additional or make up assignments.

Grade Breakdown:
Participation in class discussion: 15%
Oral Presentation: 15%
Short Paper 1 (4-6 pages): 20%
Short Paper 2 (4-6 pages): 20%
Final Paper (8-10 pages): 30%

A Note on Academic Dishonesty: Regardless of the quality of work, plagiarism is punishable with a failing grade in the class and possible dismissal from the program. Plagiarism may be broadly defined as copying of materials from sources without duly citing them, claiming other’s ideas as one’s own
without proper reference to them, and buying materials such as essays/exams. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask your instructor.
**COURSE SCHEDULE** (subject to change at the instructor’s discretion)

**Week 1**


Reading:
- Christopher J. Walker, ‘Friends or Foes? The Islamic East, and the West’, *History Today*, March 2007
- Edward Said, *Orientalism*, chapter one ‘Knowing the Oriental’, pp. 31-49

**Key Topics to discuss:**
How does the West perceive the Muslim world? Why?

**Lecture: France and her North African Empire: the Conquest of Algeria**

Reading:
- Library of Congress Country Studies: Algeria From ‘France in Algeria’ to ‘Polarization and Politicization’

**Key Topics to discuss:**
How was the France affected by colonialism?
How was Algeria affected by colonialism?
In what ways did French colonial policy differ from Britain?
What were Ferry’s motives?
Baycroft uses the terms ‘assimilation’ and ‘association’. What does he mean?

**Week 2:**

**Lecture: The Algerian War: the effects on the metropole**

Reading:
- Jean-Benoît Nadeau & Julie Barlow, *What makes the French so French: Sixty Million Frenchmen can’t be wrong*, chapter 8 ‘Algeria: the unacknowledged war’ pp. 101-114
- The Manifesto of the 121
Out of class visit: in your own time (before the next session) visit the Saint Michel Bridge (metro Saint Michel or Cité line 4) and look for the memorial plaque commemorating the 17 October 1961 massacre.

Key Topics to discuss:
Discussion on the ‘out of class visit’
The effects of the Algerian War on Metropolitan France.
The effects of the colonial legacy on French society today.

**Oral Presentation**

**Group 1**
- Mehdi Charef, *Summer of 62 (les Cartouches Gauloises)*

**Hand in Short Paper 1 (4-6 pages)**

**Oral Presentation**

**Group 2**
- Rachid Bouchareb, *Days of Glory (Les Indigènes)*

**Lecture:**

*Laicité and Islam The History of Laïcité in France*

Reading:
- John Bowen, *Why the French don’t like Headscarves*, ‘Remembering Laïcité’ pp. 11-33

Key Topics to discuss:
France v United States: how do the two countries view secularism?
Why the French don’t like Headscarves?

**Week 3:**

**Lecture Lecture:**

*Immigration and the French Muslims*

Reading:
- Jorgen Nielsen, *Muslims in Western Europe*, chapter 2

Key Topics to discuss:
France v United States: how do the two countries view immigration?
How have the Muslim immigrants differed to other groups of immigrants?
Oral Presentation
Group 3

Lecture:
*Islam and the question of Women*

Reading:

Key Topics to discuss:
Is France multi-cultural?
Is Islam a threat to French values?
Feminism and Islam
How does France compare to the United States?

A class visit to the Institut des Cultures de l’*Islam*
Group 1:
Group 2:

Week 4:
Lecture:
*Mosques in France*

Reading:

Guest speaker: Justin E. H. Smith, Professor of the history and philosophy of science at the University of Paris 7, Denis Diderot

Hand in Short Paper 2 (4-6 pages)

Oral Presentation
Group 4
- Abdel Latif Kechiche, *Games of love and Chance (L’esquite)*

A class visit to the Paris Mosque
Group 1:
Group 2:
Lecture:
French Anxieties in regards to Islam

Reading:
- Jonathan Laurence & Justin Vaisse, Integrating Islam: political and Religious Challenges in Contemporary France, chapters 4 & 5

Oral Presentation
Group 5
- Ismaël Ferroukh, Free men (Les Hommes libres), 2011

Week 5:
Hand in Final Paper (8-10 pages)

Lecture:
Conclusion – should we fear Islamophobia?