Module IR 479, UNDERGRADUATE (FALL)
Islam and the West: Bridging the Gap

Tuesdays, 15.00-18.00
Room: Santral Campus E4-304

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Course Description
The Course, “Islam and the West: Bridging the Gap”, is concerned to map out the general framework of the issues related to Islam and the European Union members. This course examines, among other topics, the relationship between Islam on the one hand and multiculturalism, orientalism, occidentalism, modernization, post-colonialism, post-communism, globalization, mysticism, the Ottoman Empire, the Balkans and the Middle East. The course also aims at giving students a comparative perspective on the issues from Andalusia to the Ottoman Empire. A historical account of the early encounters between Islam and the Judeo-Christian West will be provided by examining some fields of interaction in philosophy, science, and education. This will be followed by an analysis of the European perceptions of Islam during the Renaissance and the Enlightenment, paving the way for the modern conceptions of Islam and the Islamic world in the Western hemisphere. Special attention will be paid to the rise of the European civilization as the superior power of the modern world and its impact on the relation of the two civilizations in negotiating various forms and patterns of encounter, challenge, rejection, reaction, and adaptation.

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this unit, students should display a basic understanding of the most important historical and contemporary debates on Islam and its relation to the West. The students are also expected to generate an awareness of the merits of scientific knowledge in bridging the gap between Islam and Europe. Exploring the process of interaction between Islam and Europe in an historical context, the students will be expected to find about the irrelevance of constructed and fabricated boundaries between the two.

Course Requirements
Students are required to attend the lectures and discussions; they are also required

a) to write two discussion papers of 1,000 words each as the course work (Deadlines: the week after we discuss the related topic about which your will write your papers); and

b) to write one long essay of 3,000 words as the final work (Deadline 14 January 2014).

Course work will cover two working papers, attendance and participation (40 + 20 = 60 percent); and the final work will cover the long essay (40 percent).

SYLLABUS CONTENT

1. 1 October 2013 Theories of Religion: Introduction to Islam

2. 8 October 2013 Islam, Multiculturalism and the State in the Ottoman Empire

3. 22 October 2013 Europe, the Enlightenment and the Impact of Islam on the European Civilization


4. 5 November 2013 Islam in the Balkans: Tracing the early encounters
   Assist. Prof. Dr. İnan Ruma, International Relations, Istanbul Bilgi University

5. 12 November 2013 Political Islam

6. 19 November 2013 The Arab-Israeli Conflict: Implications for Islam
   Prof. Dr. Gencer Özcan, International Relations, Istanbul Bilgi University
   - Anthony Best et al. (2004), International History of the Twentieth Century, Routledge: Chapters 5 and 18.

7. 26 November 2013 Orientalism and Occidentalism

8. 3 December 2013 Islam and Women
    Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pınar Uyan, Politics, Istanbul Bilgi University

9. 10 December 2013 Islam, European Enlightenment and Post-Colonialism

10. 17 December 2013 Islam, Modernization and Globalization: Transnationalizing Islam

11. 24 December 2013 Islam in the West: Migrants in Western Europe and Euro-Islam

12. 31 December 2013 September 11: Roots, Responses and Results

13. 7 January 2014 Islamophobia as a form of Governmentality

14. 14 January 2014 Submission of Final Papers