Muslim Public Speaking: History and Practice (AM-654)

Timur Yuskaev  
Phone: 860.509.9554  
yuskaev@hartsem.edu

Class Location and Time

Monday, June 8 through Friday, June 12, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Location: Room 206, 77 Sherman Street

Description

This course is an exploration in contemporary and past Muslim homiletics. Our approach is both descriptive and practical. For those who are interested in Muslim oral discourses as an academic subject, the course will offer a chance to learn about the subject from historical and anthropological perspectives. Our examples will be from the United States, Middle East, West Africa, and beyond. For those who plan to be Muslim public speakers, the course will offer practical exercises aimed at the development of their skills as lecturers and khatibs.

Coursework and Assessment

- Each student will be required to read all the assigned material before the first day of the course.

- By 12:00 pm on Friday, June 5, each student will submit three documents:
  
  1) Reading notes of the assigned chapters of Richard Antoun’s Muslim Preacher in the Modern World. The notes should be 3-4 pages long.
  
  2) A reflection on one aspect of the book that the student finds most useful for their study or their practice of public speaking. This reflection should be 3-4 pages long (Times New Roman, 12 fond, double space).
  
  3) A short one paragraph statement that identifies an online video of a Muslim lecture or sermon they would like to analyze in class. Provide the link to the material (see the way I identify such links in “Required Texts” part of the syllabus). Submit this statement as a separate document.

Please email the three documents as attachments to yuskaev@hartsem.edu
• Attendance in each class and active participation are required. Because this is an intensive class, we will have a **zero-tolerance policy towards absenteeism**. No absences will be allowed or tolerated. The failure to attend one full-day session will result in the failing grade for the course.

• Each day in the class will include opportunities for students’ independent and group work. The purpose of such exercises is to prepare students for their final project.

• Each student will be expected to present their analysis of texts and video/audio material discussed in class during one of the sessions. (See supplementary material assigned for each day.)

• **Final paper**, 10-12 pages in length, will be **due at 12:00 pm on July 31, 2013**. Please submit the papers by email to yuskaev@hartsem.edu. The topic of the paper, as well as procedures that will accompany it, will be discussed in class.

Grading standards for the essays will be:

- **A** = Excellent. Excellent presentation and analysis that demonstrates original interpretation.
- **B** = Good. Solid command of facts and good attempt at analysis.
- **C+** = Adequate in the sense of doing minimal compliance with the assignment.
- **C** = Poor; did not complete the assignment adequately but shows some effort.
- **F** = Failing; did not complete the assignment.

• **Grading criteria for the course:**
  - Preliminary reflection (20%)
  - One class presentation (10%)
  - Class participation (20%)
  - Final essay or public speech (50%) – due at 12:00 pm on July 31, 2013.

**Required Texts**

**Note:** All of the readings will be available on SONISWEB. Students are advised to register early to have access to the text well before the deadline of the preliminary reflection.


6) Online audio recording of Imam W.D. Mohammed, “Our Shared Freedom Space”

   Part 1 – follow this link:  

   Part 2 – follow this link:  


7) Chapter 4, “Politics,” from Timur R. Yuskaev, *Speaking Qur’an* – posted on SONISWEB

8) View two online videos by Hamza Yusuf

   a) “Making Sense of Our Past” (There are many places one can find it. One of them is on [http://www.aswatalIslam.net/FilesList.aspx?T=Video&C=Lectures&T1=Hamza%20Yusuf](http://www.aswatalIslam.net/FilesList.aspx?T=Video&C=Lectures&T1=Hamza%20Yusuf))

   b) “Give and Take for God’s Sake” (you can find this one easily on YouTube and elsewhere)
Schedule

Monday, June 8

Readings:

a) Chapters 1-5 from Antoun’s book
b) Caton, “‘What is an ‘Authorizing Discourse’?”
c) Fischer and Abedi, “Qur’anic Dialogics”
d) Look over Wael Alkhairo’s book (no need to finish reading it; start reading it and familiarize yourself with the content)

Agenda:

1) Discussion of the readings and students’ reflections
2) Discussion of effective speeches, based on students’ findings
3) Preparation for the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday workshops

Tuesday, June 9

Reading:

a) Wael Alkhairo, Speaking for Change

Agenda:

1) Discussion of readings
2) Public speaking workshop

Wednesday, June 10

Reading/Listening/Viewing:

a) Yuskaev, Chapter 4, “Politics.”
b) View the two assigned online videos by Hamza Yusuf

Agenda:

1) Public speaking workshop
2) Discussion of the assignments
Thursday, June 11

Reading/Listening/Viewing:

   a) Yuskaev, Chapter 3, “Redemption.”
   b) Imam W.D. Mohammed, “Our Shared Freedom Space”

Agenda:

   1) Discussion of assignments and conversation with Prof. Benjamin Watts
   2) Public speaking workshop

Friday, June 12

Agenda:

   1) Discussion of the assignment
   2) Preparation for the visit to a mosque
   3) Visit to the mosque
   4) Debriefing
   5) Concluding discussion