

Course Syllabus

Të dhëna bazike të lëndës:

Course	Women and Society
Level:	BA
Course Status:	Elective
Course Code:	407
Academic Year:	2026/2027
Semester:	7 th
Weekly Hours:	2+0
Number of ECTS Credits:	3
Course Lecturer:	Dr. Ilmije KUQI
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Brief Course Description

The course "Women and Society" offers a comprehensive study of the position of women in Islam, starting from a historical perspective on the treatment of women in pre-Islamic societies to contemporary issues affecting the lives of Muslim women today. Through the analysis of religious texts, legal arguments, and practical examples, the course addresses key topics such as women's educational, property, and marital rights, the issue of veiling, polygamy, reproductive health, and social challenges like human trafficking.

Course Objectives

The objective of the course "Women and Society" is to:

- Provide a deep and comprehensive overview of the historical position of women in society, analyzing developments and transformations that have occurred across different eras.
- Highlight the ideological foundations that have influenced the formation of beliefs and customs regarding women, aiming for a deep understanding of the factors shaping societal perceptions of them.
- Present and clarify authentic Islamic teachings regarding women, focusing on their rights, duties, and true status according to the primary sources of the religion.
- Increase awareness of women's rights and contribute to preventing their violations.
- Cultivate a higher collective awareness of the importance of respecting women's rights and promote a more balanced and fair approach to their role in society.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Analyze the position of women in various pre-Islamic and post-Islamic societies, identifying key changes in their treatment.

- Interpret and explain religious texts related to the position of women in Islam, distinguishing accurate interpretations from possible misunderstandings.
- Evaluate women's educational, property, and inheritance rights according to Islamic teachings, comparing them with contemporary social practices.
- Analyze key family issues from an Islamic perspective, including marriage, spousal rights, polygyny, and divorce.
- Assess contemporary challenges faced by women in society and the Islamic approach to them, including issues of trafficking, violence, and discrimination.
- Compare women's emancipation movements and international rights documents with Islamic teachings on women's rights, identifying commonalities and differences.

Teaching Methodology:

The course will be conducted using a comprehensive methodology that combines traditional and modern teaching approaches. Lectures will be presented visually using a projector and illustrative materials to facilitate the understanding of concepts. Each class session includes the presentation of new material, interactive discussions, and a final summary where students can ask questions. Students are encouraged to express their opinions and engage in academic dialogue. To develop research and presentation skills, they will prepare seminar papers and individual presentations. This combined approach aims to create a comprehensive learning experience that prepares students for academic and professional challenges.

Course Content:

Nr.	Week	Lecture/activity
1.	Week I	General introduction to the course, literature, student assessment, etc.
2.	Week II	<p>Women before Islam – This lecture focuses on the motives underlying the treatment of women in societies before the prophethood of Muhammad (peace be upon him). It provides an overview of women's status in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pagan societies (Greek, Roman, Chinese, Indian, Persian) - Religious societies (Hebrew and Christian) - Pre-Islamic Arab society.
3.	Week III	<p>Women in Islam – The main topic of this lecture is the foundations on which Islam built its stance regarding women. Comparisons will be drawn with concepts from the previous lecture.</p>
4.	Week IV	<p>Misunderstood texts regarding the Islamic concept of women's status – Some Qur'anic verses and Prophetic hadiths, if read superficially, may be misinterpreted as evidence of discrimination against women in Islam. This lecture exclusively addresses these texts and clarifies their true meanings.</p>
5.	Week V	<p>Women's educational rights – Female education is often criticized by opponents of religion. This lecture highlights Islamic perspectives on</p>

		women's education, presenting arguments and evidence supporting it and refuting claims of gender discrimination in Islam.
6.	Week VI	Women's veiling and adornment – Veiling remains a controversial topic. For some, it is a religious symbol; for others, a tool of discrimination. This lecture addresses these concerns and other dilemmas surrounding the hijab.
7.	Week VII	Women's property and inheritance rights – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does Islam grant women property rights? - What is Islam's stance on women's inheritance, and does it violate their rights? These questions are addressed and clarified in this lecture.
8.	Week VIII	Midterm Exam – The test is held on a week determined by the dean's office, meaning its date may move one week earlier or later.
9.	Week IX	Women's preaching rights – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are women's preaching rights in Islam? - How do Muslim scholars explain accusations that men allegedly deny this right? - Are women allowed to lead men in prayer? - Is it discriminatory to prevent a woman from being the imam of a congregation? These and other related questions are addressed in this lecture.
10.	Week X	Women's marital rights and obligations – Covers Islamic legal aspects concerning a woman's right to choose her spouse, her rights as a wife, and her duties as a wife.
11.	Week XI	Reproductive health according to Islamic teachings – Discusses the terminology, concept, and Islamic perspective on women's reproductive health.
12.	Week XII	Polygamy and Women's Rights - Whenever women and their rights in Islam are discussed, polygamy is often mentioned as a supposed means by which injustice toward women is argued. In this lecture, all these accusations, misunderstandings, and misinterpretations are examined and shown to be incorrect. The religious and social analysis of this phenomenon in the lecture is particularly important for students, as it equips them with sufficient knowledge and information about polygamy from historical, cultural, and religious perspectives.
13.		Management of Marital Problems / Domestic Violence - Marital life has its ups and downs. This lecture explains whether spousal violence is considered a solution to these disputes or disagreements, providing detailed explanations of Qur'anic verses and hadiths related to this topic.

14.	Week XIII	Divorce and Women's Rights - It is often claimed that divorce is an exclusive right of the husband. This lecture explains a woman's right to initiate divorce, her rights during the waiting period ('iddah), and her rights regarding child custody, among other related aspects.
15.		Widows in Islamic Society - In pre-Islamic societies, widows were often treated undignifiedly. This lecture presents both theoretical and practical aspects of widows' status in Islamic society, comparing them with past practices as well as current practices in various societies.
16.	Week XIV	Early Marriages: Causes, Treatment, and Solutions - Within this lecture, a research study conducted by the course lecturer across the territory of Kosovo will be presented.
17.	Week XV	Human Trafficking and Islam's Stance on Prostitution - Female trafficking is a phenomenon that is suffocating society. The lecture aims to shed light on Islam's stance regarding this phenomenon and its preventive measures, in order to preserve women's dignity and honor.
18.		Women's Emancipation Movements and Their Advocated Rights - This lecture provides a historical overview of women's emancipation movements, their objectives, methods, and key rights they have promoted, such as: women's right to participate in public life, with a focus on employment (including teaching, highlighting examples of notable women in history), political and military engagement, sexual harassment as a consequence of mixed-gender participation, etc. Within this lecture, international documents on women's rights will also be examined and compared with Islamic teachings.

Assessment Method

Participation and Engagement in Lectures:	10%
Seminar Paper - Seminars begin from Week III. Students are free to choose their topics. The seminar paper must be submitted in printed format and presented before the class.	20%
Midterm Exam:	30%
Final Exam:	40%
Total:	100%

Academic Policies and Code of Conduct:

The student must respect the institution and the established regulations:

- to respect the lecture schedule;
- to maintain discipline during lectures;
- to follow the instructions given by the lecturer;
- not to keep mobile phones or other devices turned on during class hours.

Required Literature:

Topalliogllu, Bekir, Women in Islam, translated by Mithat Hoxha, (Istanbul: Marmara University, 2000).

Group of authors, Women under the Protection of Islam, (Prishtina: Saudi Joint Committee – Aid to Kosovo, 2002).

Sibai, Mustafa, el-Mer’etu bejne-l-fikhi ve-l-kanun, (Beirut: El-mekteb el-islamij, 6th edition, 1984).

Additional Literature and Bibliography:

Kardawi, Yusuf, Women in Islam, translated by Sadush Tahiri, (Prishtina: Qatar Charitable Society, 2002).

Dr. Sherif Abdel Azim, Women in Islam vs. Women in the Judeo-Christian Tradition: Myth and Reality, translated by Edin Q. Lohja, (Publisher: Conveying Islamic Message Society, Alexandria 2008).

Gazali M., Tantawi M.S., Hashim A.U., el-Mer’etu fi-l-Islam, (Cairo: Ahbar el-Youm, 1991).

Afghani, Sayyid, el-Islam ve-l-mer’eh, (Beirut: Dar el-Fikr, 3rd edition, 1970).

*Farooqi, Lois Lamja, Women, Muslim Society, and Islam, translated by Mimoza Sinani, (Skopje: Logos-A, 2007).

Taha, Sabir Ahmed, Nidhamu-l-usreti fi-l-jehudiyeti ve-n-nasranijeti ve-l-Islam, (Cairo: Nahdat Misr, 2000).

Tahhan, Mustafa, Women in the Caravan of Da’wah, translated by Bashkim Aliu and Sali Shasivari, (Skopje: Furkan ISM, 2001).

Nadvi, Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi, Ma dha hasire el-alem bi-n-hitati el-muslimine, (India: Islamic Scientific Assembly, 2008).

Zayyat, Habib, el-Mer’etu fi-l-Jahiliyyah, (Cairo: Hindawi Foundation, 2013).

Activity	Hours	Days\Week	Total
Lectures	2	15	30
Theoretical exercises	-	-	-

Practical work	-	-	-
Meetings with the lecturer / consultations	1	10	10
Field work	-	-	-
Colloquia, seminars, essays	1	10	10
Homework assignments	1	5	5
Independent study time (in library or at home)	1	15	15
Final exam preparation	5	4	20
Time spent in assessment (tests, essays, final exam)	2	5	10
Total	13	15 weeks	100 hours