***British Society and Culture: Muslims in Britain***

*Welcome to this course!*

Courses: Tue 8.30-10.00 and Tue 10.15-11.45, Amb 129

Lecturer: Karáth Tamás PhD

Contact: tamas.karath@gmail.com

Office hours: Tue 11:45-12:30, Amb 133

The topicality of Islam in Europe does not need any comment today. Whereas the secular and Christian West is the homeland of a growing number of Muslims, both in-born and newcomers, and has growing concerns about this religiously and culturally defined minority, it seems that the common perception of Muslims and Islam is shaped by false stereotypes, prejudices and a mentality that can best be described with the expression Islamophobia. This course invites you to observe the contemporary profile of the Muslim communities in Britain. As the “Muslim discourse” is inherently bound to some other discourses, such as immigration, discrimination, integration, multiculturalism and circles of civilization, the course will also combine the discussion of Muslim communities with a reflection on these current European discourses.

**Methods**

The seminar will be based on the discussion of home readings and on group work.

**Requirements and description of tasks**

Non-graded requirements:

* Class attendance (no more than 3 absences)
* Reading the assigned texts
* On the basis of the chapters assigned for the workshop classes, preparing a task for the in-class team work. The planned work time on the task should not ideally exceed 7 minutes.

Graded requirements:

* The summary of a chapter assigned for the workshop classes. The criteria of the summary are described below in the section “Workshop classes”, and will also be discussed in the first class. The submission deadline of the summary is 29 November.
* End-of-term test: The material of the test is based on the seminar readings and discussions (cf. syllabus).

**Assessment of the course**

The course is not valid if you miss more than three classes. Please respect the deadlines. Late submissions will not be accepted, and will be graded with the fail mark. The final grade will be the weighted average of the graded tasks of the seminar, in which the summary counts with 35% and the end-of-term test with 65%. Averages of .5 will be rounded according to your contributions to group discussions.

**Syllabus**

Sep 13 - Introducing the seminar and assigning the tasks

Sep 20 – Islam: The basics

Sep 27 – The religious landscape: Religious diversity in Britain

Reading: Steve Bruce, “Religious Culture in Contemporary Britain,” in David Morley and Kevins Robins, eds., *British Cultural Studies*. OUP, 2001, pp. 195-206.

Oct 4 - The diversity of British Muslims today

Reading: *British Muslims in Numbers – A Demographic, Socio-economic and Health Profile of Muslims in Britain Drawing on the 2011 Census,* Parts 1-3

<https://www.mcb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/MCBCensusReport_2015.pdf>

Oct 11 – The origins of the British Muslim community: Post-WWII immigration history

Reading: Pintér Károly, *Introduction to Britain* (Piliscsaba: PPKE, 2010) Chapter 8.4 (Ethnic minorities, pp. 127-32)

Oct 18 – Workshop 1: Britain’s Muslim Communities

Oct 25 – **No class**

Nov 1 – **Autumn break**

Nov 8 - The Muslim discourse in Britain 1: The Rushdie affair

Reading: “The *Satanic Verses* Controversy” *Wikipedia*

[*https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\_Satanic\_Verses\_controversy*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Satanic_Verses_controversy)

Julian Barnes, “Five Years of the Fatwa.” In *Letters from London.* Picador, 1995, pp. 293-311.

Nov 15 - The Muslim discourse in Britain 2: Islamophobia

Reading: Islamophobia: A Challenge for Us All (Runnymede Trust, 1997), Part 1

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/publications/17/32.html>

Nov 22 - Multiculturalism

Reading: Tariq Modood: Post-Immigration ’Difference’ and Integration: The Case of Muslims in Western Europe, pp. 9-22

[http://www.ed.ac.uk/polopoly\_fs/1.82423!/fileManager/Triq%20Modood.pdf](http://www.ed.ac.uk/polopoly_fs/1.82423%21/fileManager/Triq%20Modood.pdf)

Nov 29 – Workshop 2: British Muslim Identities

Dec 6 – **End-of-term test**

Dec 13 – Assessment and concluding remarks

**Workshop classes**

The classes of 18 October and 29 November will be arranged as workshops. You will have to prepare tasks for these classes on the basis of chapters assigned for the two occasions. One half of the seminar will be responsible for reading the chapters assigned for 18 October and preparing tasks related to them, while the other half of the seminar will do the same for 29 November. Members of the seminar have to sign up for the chapters individually. You will have to do two tasks with your own chapter:

1. Write a summary of your chapter

A summary is a brief, dense and objective recapitulation of the text.

Requirements:

* The summary must reconstruct the argument of the chapter.
* It must clearly state the thesis and the main points of the text.
* The summary must be objective, i.e. it must rely on what the original text says.
* 3 pages long
* the editing of the text should conform to the formal requirements of the BA thesis guide at the department website:

[http://btk.ppke.hu/uploads/articles/135506/file/BA%20thesis%20guide\_Literary%20and%20cultural%20topics-2013(1).pdf](http://btk.ppke.hu/uploads/articles/135506/file/BA%20thesis%20guide_Literary%20and%20cultural%20topics-2013%281%29.pdf)

Avoid:

* Verbosity
* Getting lost in details
* Selecting ideas and omitting important points
* Attributing ideas to the authors that they do not claim
* Interpreting the text
* Judging the author and their argument
* Any kind of personal intervention (comments, “by the ways”, additions, critical remarks)

The deadline of the summary is 29 November.

Submit the summary in printed format.

1. Prepare one task to your own chapter

On the basis of your chapter you have to prepare one task which your fellow students will have to solve in the workshop classes. Please remember that no one else in the class will read your chapter, so you cannot assume that your fellow students have a shared knowledge of it. You have to invent a creative task that is doable by your fellows. You may provide them some background information. You have to prepare a task from which your fellows can learn. The working time planned for each task should not exceed 7 minutes.

The tasks are due in the respective workshop class (either 18 October or 29 November).

Students preparing tasks for the same workshop class have to consult on the overall concept of the quiz and edit all the tasks in one exercise sheet.

Chapters for 18 October:

Ansari, Humayun, “Muslim Migration to Britain after the Second World War.” In *‘The Infidel Within’: Muslims in Britain since 1800.* Hurst & Company, 2004, pp. 145-165.

\_\_\_. “Contours of Muslim Life in Britain since 1945.” In *‘The Infidel Within’: Muslims in Britain since 1800.* Hurst & Company, 2004, pp. 166-204.

Davie, Grace, “Facts and Figures [of religious communities in the UK].” In *Religion in Britain: A Persistent Paradox.* 2nd edition. Wiley Blackwell, 2015, pp. 41-67

Lewis, Philip, “Introduction.” In *Young, British and Muslim.* Continuum, 2007, pp. 1-14.

\_\_\_. “Britain’s Muslim Communities: A Sketch.” In *Young, British and Muslim.* Continuum, 2007, pp. 15-31.

Chapters for 18 October:

Ansari, Humayun, “Assimilation, Integration, Accommodation: Aspects of Muslim Engagement with British Society since 1945.” In *‘The Infidel Within’: Muslims in Britain since 1800.* Hurst & Company, 2004, pp. 205-251.

\_\_\_. “Muslim Women and Families in Britain.” In *‘The Infidel Within’: Muslims in Britain since 1800.* Hurst & Company, 2004, pp. 252-297.

\_\_\_. “Conclusion: British Muslim Identities.” In *‘The Infidel Within’: Muslims in Britain since 1800.* Hurst & Company, 2004, pp. 389-406.

Lewis, Philip, “British Muslims, Radical Islam and its Critics.” In *Young, British and Muslim.* Continuum, 2007, pp. 119-148.

Panayi, Panikos, “The Evolution of Multiculturalism.” In *An Immigration History of Britain: Multicultural Racism since 1800.* Routledge, 2014, pp. 259-306.

*Enjoy the seminar.*