ISLAMIC SOURCES OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION
SPRING 2008

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It is increasingly becoming evident that for peace and conflict resolution approaches to be sustainable and long lasting they must take into consideration the religio-cultural traditions of the communities involved. As such, Islam has a direct impact on the way peace is conceptualized and the way conflicts are resolved in Islamic societies, because it embodies and elaborates upon its highest morals, ethical principles and ideals of social harmony. For that reason conflict resolution scholars and practitioners must take into consideration the religious and cultural traditions of Muslim communities to address conflicts involving them. Although the current image of Muslims is associated with violence, in fact, the ideal of peace is deeply embedded in the religious vision of Islam and Muslim communities have developed various approaches and tools to address conflicts. Drawing links between Islamic and Western conflict resolution approaches, this course will explore principles, values, and practices of peace and conflict resolution rooted in the Islamic texts and traditions. This is an interactive course in which students are expected to engage with the ideas and thoughts presented in the class assignments, by the professor, and other students. Teaching resources also include visual materials relevant to class themes, such as power point lectures, documentaries, and films etc. Guest speakers, carefully chosen among the practitioners and scholars of the field also enrich the learning experience of the students. The philosophy of teaching followed is *collaborative learning*, where students are engaged in active learning by critically analyzing the readings and ideas of others, including the professor, in the light of historical and current events, and participating in class assignments where they collaborate with other students.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION PROCESS

1. **Participation: 15 %** of your final grade will be based on the quality of your *participation* in class. In order to prepare for the class, students are expected to do **all** the **required** readings, and based on the readings, prepare **2 (two)** questions for discussion. Prepared questions should be handed to Dr. Kadayifci-Orellana before each class. Also remember: participation entails not only **attendance**, but also **active self-expression** in response to the course materials and **active listening. Active listening** is a communication skill which we develop as we learn to hear words, ideas, and opinions, and the emotions behind words, ideas, and opinions. We try to become a clear mirror for another person, reflecting back what we hear and comprehend. Using empathy as a tool of analysis, we seek not only to understand ideas, but also to understand people.

2. **In-class Mid-term Exam: 35%** of your grade will be based on an in-class **mid-term examination**. Date of the exam is **April 1, 2008.**

3. **Learning Partners Presentations 20%:** Student groups (2-3 people) will make **25 minute** presentations in addition to the course material on each group's assigned week. At the end of the presentations, students should lead a class discussion for approximately about 5 minutes. Learning Partners Presentations should **not** include a summary of the readings for the class, but should present relevant other material to the week's topic. Some students may choose to present relevant current events with an analysis; focus on a text (the Quran, the *Hadith* etc.) and discuss it in relation to the class theme of the week; others may present a scholarly article other than class readings relevant to the week's topic; others may present a relevant video clip and others may lead an experiential, exercise relevant to the topic. Creativity will be encouraged. Nevertheless, each learning partners' presentation should have clear learning objectives and should be designed to achieve these objectives effectively. Each presenter will write a three (3) page brief each where they describe the project, state its relevance to the theme of the week and learning objectives and how this presentation achieves the learning objectives Students will be evaluated on their preparation and research, relevance and connecting the presentation to week's topic, analysis, team work, and effective use of time. Students are **required** to discuss their plans ahead of time with Dr. Kadayifci-Orellana. Please see Learning Partners' guidelines.

4. **Case Study Papers: 30%**of your grade will be based on the quality and depth of your **individual case study papers**, which each student will present to the class. Students may choose to do a group case-study paper if they like. If that is the case groups should not be more than 3 (three) students. Case-study papers should demonstrate mastery of the themes explored in class and serious research into a particular case or issue in the Islamic culture area where Islamic sources of conflict resolution can contribute or have contributed to resolution or transformation of conflict. Students will be expected to identify the roles of culture and religion/Islam in the conflict itself, as well as in actual or potential efforts to resolve the conflict. Following the in-class presentation of their research paper each student will guide discussion on their case studies and issue areas. Individual case-study papers should be 15-20 pages (12 points, double space). Presentation of the papers should last approximately 30 minutes and the discussion following the presentation should be no more than 10 minutes. **Proposals are due on March 4th 2008** and **Papers are due on May 6th 2008**. See Case Study Guidelines.

GRADING

Student Evaluations: Student performances will be determined by adding the points received from
1. Class Participation   (15%)
2. Learning Partners' Presentations   (20%)
3. Group Case Study Papers   (30%)
4. In-class Exam   (35%)
Total   **100%**

The final grade for the course: A numerical score will be equivalent to the following letter grades:

100-96: A
91-95: A-
86-90: B+
81-85: B
76-80: B-
71-75: C+
66-70: C
61-65: C-
56-60: D

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students are governed by American University's Academic Integrity Code, which details specific violations of ethical conduct that relates to academic integrity. By registering, you have acknowledged your awareness of the Academic Integrity Code, and you are obliged to become familiar with your rights and responsibilities as defined by the Code. All of your work (whether oral or written) in this class is governed by the provisions of the Code. Academic violations, particularly plagiarism, have been increasing in recent years, partly due to web sites and other sources that offer information or papers that students can submit as their own work. Defined by the Code, plagiarism is using the work, ideas, or words of someone else without attribution. Other violations include inappropriate collaboration (working on a project with another person but not acknowledging her or his contribution), dishonesty in examinations, whether in class or take-home, dishonesty in papers (not submitting original work), work done for one course and submitted to another, deliberate falsification of data, interference with other students' work, and copyright violations. The adjudication process and possible penalties are listed in American University's Academic Integrity Code booklet, which is also available on the American University web site. The Instructor has the responsibility to monitor course assignments for violations of academic integrity, and the right to submit any suspicious assignments for electronic analysis to detect such violations. Being a member of this academic community entitles each of us to a wide degree of freedom in the pursuit of scholarly interests; with that freedom, however, comes a responsibility to uphold the ethical standards of scholarly conduct.

BOOKS AVAILABLE AT THE CAMPUS STORE

***Required*:**
1. Salem, ed. *Conflict Resolution in the Arab World: Selected Essays*. Beirut, Lebanon: American University of Beirut, 1997.
2. Ralph H. Salmi, Cesar Adib Majul, and George K. Tanham. *Islam and Conflict Resolution: Theories and Practices*. Lanham, MD: University Press of American, 1998.
3. Mohammed Abunimer and Mohammad Shafiq *Interfaith Dialogue: A Guide for Muslims* International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT); 1st edition 2007
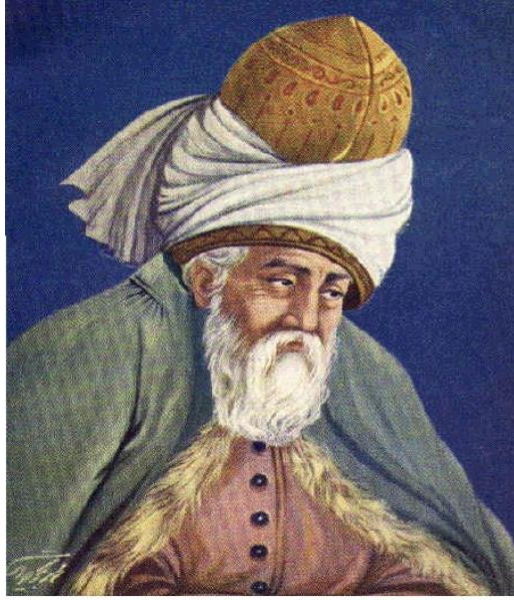4. Farid Esack *The Qur'an: A Short Introduction* Oneworld Press, Oxford 2002

***Recommended*:**
1. Ekhnath Easwaran *Nonviolent Soldier of Islam: Badshah Khan, A Man to Match His Mountains* Nilgiri Press 1999
2. Annemarie Schimmel *Islam: An introduction* Albany: State University of New York Press, 1992.

Each student is recommended to get a copy of the Quran.
Additional readings will be made available on Blackboard.

Note on Recommended Books Included in the Syllabus

Following the required books in the syllabus, you will find a set of recommended books, chapters, and articles. These books and articles are included in the syllabus as additional resources for those students who are interested in particular themes and topics and who would like to read more in those areas. Some of the recommended books will be available both at the bookstore and the library. Recommended articles and book chapters will be made available at the Library Reserves and, online space permitting, on blackboard for your convenience. While all the students are required to do the "required readings" students are encouraged to read the recommended readings relevant to their interest areas.

CLASS SCHEDULE

January 15 (Week One): Meeting one another and presentation of course overview, discussion of assignments and course materials. Today we will also assign Learning Partners' Presentations.

January 22, (Week Two): Conflict Resolution as a Religio- Cultural Activity and Islam. This week we will focus on the relevance of religion and conflict resolution. More specifically, this week will focus on the types of conflicts in the Muslim world, their dynamics in the context of modernization, globalization and identity conflicts. How to research and study conflicts involving Muslims will also be discussed.

- *Power-point lecture*
- *Send vocabulary and verses*
- *Decide on learning partners' presentations*

Required Readings:

- Said, Abdul Aziz, Nathan Funk and Ayse Kadayifci. (2001) *Peace and Conflict Resolution in Islam: Peace and Practice*. New York, NY: University Press of America., Introduction

- Farid Esack (2002) *The Qur'an: A Short Introduction* Oneworld Press, Oxford Chapter 1, 2

- Ralph H. Salmi, Cesar Adib Majul, and George K. Tanham. (1998) *Islam and Conflict Resolution: Theories and Practices*. Lanham, MD: University Press of American. Pages 1-63

- Karamustafa, Ahmet 2003. "Islam: A Civilizational Project in Progress" in Omid Safi eds. *Progressive Muslims on Justice, Gender, and Pluralism*

Recommended Texts:

- Louis Kriesberg (1997) "The Development of Conflict Resolution Theory" in Zartman and Rasmussen eds. Peacemaking in *International Conflict: Methods and Techniques*. USIP Press Washington D.C. 2005 (Chapter 2)

- Scott Appleby. (2006) *The Ambivalence of the Sacred*. Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc (Introduction, Chapter 1)

- Annemarie Schimmel (1992) *Islam: An introduction* Albany: State University of New York Press

January 29 (Week Three): Islamic Approaches to Peace Conflict Resolution: Conceptual Framework. This week we will focus on the Islamic principles and values of peace and conflict resolution and major Islamic sources that inform the conflict resolution practice in Islam.

Learning Partners Presentation
- Conflict Wheel (summary)
- 3 Ds
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Required Readings:

- Paul Salem, ed. *Conflict Resolution in the Arab World: Selected Essays*. Beirut, Lebanon: American University of Beirut, 1997. *Preface, Chapter 1 (Jeffrey Rubin), and Chapter 2 (Paul Salem)

- Ralph H. Salmi, Cesar Adib Majul, and George K. Tanham. *Islam and Conflict Resolution: Theories and Practices.* Lanham, MD: University Press of American, 1998. Pages 65-149

- Farid Esack *The Qur'an: A Short Introduction* Oneworld Press, Oxford The Rest

- S. A. Kadayifci-Orellana S*tanding on an Isthmus: Islamic Narratives of War and Peace in Palestinian Territories* Lexington Books 2007 pages 85-125

Recommended:

- Muhammad Abu-Nimer. "Conflict Resolution in an Islamic Context: Some Conceptual Questions." *Peace and Change*, vol. 21, no. 1 (January 1996): 22-40.

- Amr Abdalla "Principles of Islamic Interpersonal Conflict Intervention: A Search within Islam and Western Literature" *Journal of Law and Religion* Vol XV 2002 pages 151-183

February 5 (Week Four): "Tool Box" for Conflict Resolution: Precepts and Practices. This week the class will focus on Islamic practices and models of third-party intervention, such as *wasta, tahkim*, and *sulha*, and will discuss how they differ from their Western counterparts. We will also discuss role of rituals in Islamic conflict resolution.

Learning Partners Presentations
- **Show Little Mosque on the Prairie (Season 1/ Episode 2)**
- **http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-5413907761539666252&q=little+mosque+on+the+prairie&total=138&start=10&num=10&so=0&type=search&plindex=0**
- Kaaba Dispute
- Negotiation/Mediation

Required Readings

- Irani, George E. "Islamic Mediation Techniques for Middle East Conflicts." *Middle East Review of International Affairs (MERIA)* 3 (2) (June 1999). Available online at http://meria.idc.ac.il/journal/1999/issue2/jv3n2a1.html

- Paul Salem, ed., *Conflict Resolution in the Arab World: Selected Essays*. *Chapters 3 (Bruce B. Lawrence), 10

(F. Gregory Gause, III), Pages 44-71 (Ahmad Mousalli)

- Ali Wardak "Jirga: A Traditional Mechanism of Conflict Resolution Mechanism in Afghanistan"

- Abu-Nimer, Mohammed. *Nonviolence and Peacebuilding Islam: Theory and Practice*. University of South Florida Press, 2003 pages 91-127

Recommended:
- Irani, George and Nathan C. Funk. "Rituals of Reconciliation: Arab-Islamic Perspectives," in *Arab Studies Quaterly*, Vol. 20, No. 4, Fall 1997, pp. 53-73.

- International Crisis Group "Peacebuilding in Afghanistan" *Asia Report* no.64 29 September 2003

- Weigert, Gideon. 1996. "A note on Hudna: Peacemaking in Islam." In Yaacov Lev, ed. *War and Society in Eastern Mediterranean, 7th - 15th Centuries*. Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill Academic Publishers.

Web Sources:
- Sulha Tradition http://www.planet.edu/~alaslah/annual_report9900/annual_report2003.htm

- Sulha in Practice http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/pages/ShArtUnd.jhtml?itemNo=603974&contrassID=2&subContrassID=1&sbSubContrassID=0&listSrc=Y

February 12 (Week Five): Practical Conflict resolution Skills in an Islamic Context: The class will discuss various practical skills, such as active listening, creative thinking, dealing with stereotypes, perceptions, and myths that contribute to conflict escalation, drawing on Quranic verses, Islamic myths and Quranic stories.

- Ten Negative D's, and Five Positive D's of Conflict Behavior (Imam training Document 1)
- Surah 'Abasa (Imam Training Document)
- Attitudes
- Perceptions
- Roleplays/simulation

Learning Partners Presentations

Required Readings:
- Chaiwat Satha-Anand. "Core Values for Peacemaking in Islam: The Prophet's Practice as Paradigm." In *Building Peace in the Middle East: Challenges for States and Civil Society*, ed. Elise Boulding. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Pubs., 1994.

- Paul Salem, ed., *Conflict Resolution in the Arab World: Selected Essays*. *Chapters 11 (Kamal Shehadi), 12 (Jerold Green), 14 (John Voll), 16 (Shafeeq Ghabra), 18 (Judith Harik).

Recommended:
- Special Conflict Resolution research group of *Mali Scholars of Peace: Islamic Tradition and Historical Conflict Resolution in Timbuktu*
http://www.sum.uio.no/research/mali/timbuktu/research/articles/conflictresolution.pdf

February 19 (Week Six): Democracy and Human Rights in Islam: This week the class will explore the relevance of democracy and human rights and conflict resolution and will discuss how Islamic sources of conflict resolution can be utilized to promote values and principles embedded in democracy and human rights.
Learning Partners Presentations

Required Readings:
- Recep Senturk "Sociology of Rights: I Am Therefore I Have Rights: Human Rights in Islam between Universalistic and Communitarian Perspectives" *Muslim World Journal of Human Rights* (Emory Islam and Human Rights Program) Vol. 2, No.1 2005 Article 11

- Rahim Nobahar "Religion and Human Dignity" in *Theoretical Foundations of Human Rights: Collected Papers of the Second International Conference on Human Rights* [C]arl Wellman and Moammad Habibi Modjandeh eds. Mofid University Center for Human Rights Studies May 2003 pp. 336-352

- Paul Salem, ed., *Conflict Resolution in the Arab World: Selected Essays* Chapters 17 (Samir Khalaf), 19 (Hassan Krayyem), and 20 (Ibrahim Najjar).

- David Smock *Islam and Democracy* http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr93.html

Recommended:
- Habibollah Peyman "Islam and the Source of Human Rights" in *Theoretical Foundations of Human Rights: Collected Papers of the Second International Conference on Human Rights* [C]arl Wellman and Moammad Habibi Modjandeh eds. Mofid University Center for Human Rights Studies May 2003 pp.353-376

- Said, Abdul Aziz and Jamil Nasser. "The Use and Abuse of Democracy in Islam," *in International Human Rights: Contemporary Issues,* Stanfordville, NY: Earl M. Coleman Enterprises, 1980

- An-Na'im,Abdullahi. *Toward an Islamic Reformation: Civil Liberties, Human Rights, and International Law.* Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 1990.

- Esposito, John L., and John O. Voll. *Islam and Democracy*. NY: Oxford University Press, 1996.

Web Sources:
- Islamic Human Rights Commission http://www.ihrc.org/

- *Islam and Human rights* http://www.witness-pioneer.org/vil/Books/M_hri/

- David Smock *Islam and democracy* http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr93.html

- The Doha Declaration http://www.npwj.org/modules.php?name=News&file=print&sid=1715

- Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy www.islam-democracy.org

February 26 (Week Seven):   Muslim Women and Conflict Resolution: This week we will look at women's rights and issues in the Muslim world as well as Muslim women who have actively engaged in peacebuilding in their communities.
Learning Partners Presentations

Required:
- Wadud-Muhsin, Amina. 1992. *Qur'an and Woman*. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: Penerbit Fajar Bakti Sdn. Bhd. Chapters. 3 & 4

- Sharify-Funk, Meena 2005 "Women and the Dynamics of Transnational Networks" in Fereshteh Nouraie-Simone ed. On Shifting Ground: Muslim Women in the Global Era Feminist Press at the City of New York

- Combs-Schilling, M. Elaine "Sacred Refuge: the Power of a Muslim Female Saint" in Fellowship vol. 60, 5-6 (May/ June, 1994)

- W. Flagg Miller (2002) "Public Words and Body Politics: Reflections on the Strategies of Women Poets in Rural Yemen" Journal of Women's History Volume 14; No.1 (Spring) pp. 94-122

Recommended:
- Monica Kathina Juma "A Women-Grown Sustainable Peace: The Case of Wajir District" *Unveiling Women as Pillars of Peace: Peace Building in Communities Fractured by Conflict in Kenya* UNDP Report http://www.onlinewomeninpolitics.org/beijing12/women_peace.pdf

- Jad, Islah 2005 "Between Religion and Secularism: Islamist Women of Hamas" in Fereshteh Nouraie-Simone ed. On Shifting Ground: Muslim Women in the Global Era Feminist Press at the City of New York

- Majid, Anouar. *"The Politics of Feminism in Islam," in Gender, Politics, and Islam,* Therese Saliba, Carolyn Allen, and Judith A. Howard eds. Chicago, University of Chicago, 2002, *pp. 53-93.*

Web Sources:
Al-Ahram "Islamic feminism: what's in a name?" http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2002/569/cu1.htm

March 4 (Week Eight): Nonviolent Struggle as a Social Change Methodology in Islamic Tradition:
This week the class will explore the principles and elements of Nonviolence in the Islamic tradition and discuss its applicability in our current world. Class will focus on Islamic rituals, practices and values that support a nonviolent response to addressing conflicts faced by Muslims today and will draw upon historical examples of successful Islamic nonviolent movements.
Learning Partners Presentations

Required Readings:
- Abu-Nimer, Mohammed. *Nonviolence and Peacebuilding Islam: Theory and Practice.* University of South Florida Press, 2003 pages 48-90

- Johansen, Robert C. 1997. Radical Islam and nonviolence: A case study of religious empowerment and constraint among Pashtuns. Journal of Peace Research 34, 1:53-71

- Ayse Kadayifci-Orellana, (2005). "Peace through Nonviolence," in *Islamic Peace Paradigms* Abdul Karim. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt

- Satha-Anand, Chaiwat. "Muslim Communal Nonviolent Actions: Minority Coexistence in a Non-Muslim Society," in Cultural Diversity and Islam, 2003, pp. 195-207

Recommended:
- Ekhnath Easwaran Nonviolent Soldier of Islam: Badshah Khan, A Man to Match His Mountains Nilgiri Press 1999

- Chaiwat Satha Anand "The Nonviolent Crescent: Eight Theses on Muslim Nonviolent Actions" in *Islam and Nonviolence* ed. Glenn Paige, Chaiwat Satha Anand and Srah Gilliatt Honolulu, Hawaii: The Center for Global Nonviolence Planning Project 1993 Pages 7-26

Web Sources:
- Islam and Nonviolence http://www.globalnonviolence.org/islam.htm

- Interview with Mobarak Awad http://www.peacemagazine.org/archive/v16n4p13.htm

- Libforall organization http://www.libforall.org/

March 11, 2007 Spring Break

March 18 (Week Nine): Principles and Practices of Interfaith Dialogue from an Islamic Perspective.
This Class will discuss sources of cultural and political pluralism in Islam via exploring Quranic verses and *Hadiths*. This week we will also look at the current interfaith movements and dialogues organized or participated by the Muslims. We will also discuss the principles, objectives, and challenges involved in interfaith dialogues.
Learning Partners Presentations

Required Readings:

- Abdulaziz Sachedina. "Freedom of Conscience and Religion in the Qur'an." In *Human Rights and the Conflict of Cultures: Western and Islamic Perspectives on Religious Liberty*, eds. David Little, John Kelsay, and Abdulaziz A. Sachedina. University of South Carolina Press, 1988

- Said, Abdul Aziz and Meena Sharify Funk, eds. 2003. *Cultural Diversity in Islam*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America. Introduction, Chps. 4 and 7

- Mohammed Abunimer and Mohammad Shafiq *Interfaith Dialogue: A Guide for Muslims* International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT); 1st edition (February 1, 2007)

Recommended Readings:

- Abu-Nimer, Mohammed. "Conflict Resolution, Culture, and Religion: Toward a Training Model of Interreligious Peacebuilding," *Peace Research*. vol. 38 no.6, 685-704 (2001)

- Smock eds. *Interfaith Dialogue and Peacebuilding* Introduction and Chapter 1 pp3-31 USIP Press 2002

March 25 (Week Ten): Peace-Building Actors in the Muslim World. In this class we will look at the roles and characteristics of Peace building actors in the Muslim world, compare and contrast them with Western peace building actors and identify and discuss their strengths and weaknesses. The course will look at both International Islamic peace building actors such as Organization of Islamic Conference and also local indigenous peace building actors.
Learning Partners Presentations

Required Readings:

- Kadayifci-Orellana and Abu-Nimer, 2005 *Muslim Peace Building Actors in Africa and the Balkans*. Salam Institute Publications

- Ralph H. Salmi, Cesar Adib Majul, and George K. Tanham. *Islam and Conflict Resolution: Theories and Practices.* Lanham, MD: University Press of American, 1998. Pages 151-189

- David Dickson *Political Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Need for a New Research and Diplomatic Agenda* USIP Special Report No 140. May 2005

Recommended:
- Ashafa, Muhammad Nurayn, and James M. Wuye. *The Pastor and the Imam* Lagos: Ibrash Publications Centre Ltd., 1999

- Dakin, Brett The Islamic Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina v. The Republika Srpska: Human Rights in a Multi-Ethnic Bosnia" *Harvard Human Rights Journal* Vol 15. (Spring 2002) at http://www.law.harvard.edu/students/orgs/hrj/iss15/dakin.shtml#Heading82

- Turay, Thomas *Mark Civil society and Peacebuilding: The role of the Inter-Religious Council of Sierra Leone* at http://www.c-r.org/accord/s-leone/accord9/society.shtml
- Leban Mojca "Faith-Based NGOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina" in The International Journal of Not-for-Profit Law Vol. 6 Issue 1 (September 2003) at: http://www.icnl.org/JOURNAL/vol6iss1/rel_lebanprint.htm

Web sources:
- http://www.sit.edu/contact/news/brotherhood_article.html

- http://www.aicongress.org/

- http://www.ihrc.org

- Acholi Peace website at http://www.acholipeace.org/

- African Centers for Peace Education and Training website at http://www.peace.ca/africa.htm

April 1 (Week Eleven):   **Mid-term examination**

April 8 (Week Twelve):   Presentation of Case Studies

April 15 (Week Thirteen):   Presentation of Case Studies

April 22 (Week Fourteen):   Presentation of Case Studies

May 6 (Week Fifteen):   Presentation of Case Studies

My heart is capable of every form.
A cloister for the monk, a fane for idols,
A pasture for gazelles, the votary's Kabah
The tables of the Torah, the Koran.
Love is the faith I hold: wherever turn

His camels, still the one true faith is mine.
Ibn Arabi