Mothers of Death:modes of biah and Moslem culture

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Course and schedule:

Preparation: according to agreement, at 429. Telephone and voice: 640-9450; (Secretariat)
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Death is perhaps the most dramatic event in the life of a person and the life of a community. This is the point of departure for the course, which follows the theological, social, and cultural implications of death in Moslem communities in various periods of history. We ask questions: how did Muslims control death? how did they prepare for it? how did they predict its coming? how did they commemorate it? The answers to these questions will allow us to discuss issues of identity, community, struggle for power, social limits, and how all these were determined by agreement and conflict, and in the context of the stage of death.

Issues to be discussed:

- Suicide and death in war and pandemic;
- The religious points of view on death (Death of kindness, death of mind);
- Murder and its criminal implications;
- Burials, graves, and cemeteries;
- The literary motif of "death from love";
- The features of the next world (Heaven and Hell);
- And others.

Requirements of the course:

- Attendance;
- Active participation, at the discretion of the ideas / questions / materials offered by the students. The seminar takes place in the form of discussion, and therefore a continuous contribution is required.

For those who cannot attend meetings, there are alternatives, such as: Contribution to the course forum, reading additional material, referring to the original source (in translation or in the original), or writing an article in Wikipedia.
The lecturer is open for ideas for participation and contribution in creative ways. In any case, the expectation is that the students will be active and take the lead.

Submission of a homework assignment based on the analysis of an original source: A film for Muslims. The homework will be done during the first week of April. During this week, there will be no meetings in the classroom. Detailed guidelines are found on the course site.

Submission of seminar report / report:
The work should be submitted by the 1st of October, 2017. On the site of the course you will find guidelines and compulsory times for preparing the work.

Cancellation of a lecture and its completion:
Due to personal reasons, the meeting on March 14 will not take place. It will be held on Thursday, March 17, at 9.

Final grade structure:

- Attendance: 25%
- Presentation in class: 15%
- Seminar work: 50%

Recommended reading:


