Meet me: After class or by appointment  
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Office: Hall of Languages, Rm 501  

About this course:  

People in all cultures have expressed their concerns, values and identity through language and literature. Inspired by the Qur’an, Muslims developed a unique attitude towards language. The word “literature” as used in a Western context is much too narrow to designate the variety of forms and subjects for which words were used. “Literature” was oral as well as written, religious and secular, poetry and history.  

We will read primary sources (in translation) and focus on language as a form of discovery, imagination and knowledge, and how the use of words not only expresses but also constructs the key values and discourses in Islamic civilization. (At the end of the course you should be able to critique Huntington’s thesis in his infamous book, The Clash of Civilizations.”)  

Grades and format:  

The best way to appreciate these texts is through class discussion. If you read the assigned books carefully, and write thoughtful discussion papers, class discussion will be fruitful and substantive. Hence, the grading format encourages this framework. I will give background lectures as needed to fill in historical and cultural context but students learn most when they write and talk about the readings.  

Discussion Papers 300 words (must post on BB by deadline and bring to class): 40%  
Review of Readings  BB: Sat 9.00 am (miss= -2%)  
Response to peer  BB: Tue 9.00 am (miss= -1%)  
Allowed one of each  

Attendance & Discussion (except emergency with letter): 20%  
Each absence = minus 2% (If you know, speak to me in advance)  
No participation = minus 1% (Speak at least twice)  
Allowed one of each  

Final Essay/Synthesis: 40% (10% + 30%) Each day late = -2%  
First Draft: Fri Nov 19 BB 5.00 pm. 10%  
Final: Mon Dec 13 BB 5.00 pm 30%  
General outline: Thesis or theme; Analysis of Readings (with use of at least 2 academic books or 4 peer-reviewed journal articles or 1 books and 3 articles.) Length: 12 – 15 double-spaced pages. More details will be given in class.
Texts:

- *Distant View of a Minaret and Other Stories*, Alifa Rifaat (1987)

Schedule:

We will read the texts in the above sequence. However, it will also be determined by the initial themes emerging in class. The pages to read will be posted on Blackboard and announced in class on Wednesday, the week before the readings. In addition to the texts, some short background reading for context will be posted on Blackboard. Note Dates:

- *First Draft* 11/19
- Thanksgiving 11/24-28
- Last day: 12/10
- *Final*: 12/13

Official Matters:

The penalty of plagiarism is an F grade. It’s simple: *don’t copy, don’t modify, give full credit*. Essentially, plagiarism is a combination of stealing and lying. Don’t do it. To learn more about SU’s policy go to: [http://academicintegrity.syr.edu](http://academicintegrity.syr.edu).

If you have a disability, it is important for you to register with the Office of Disability Services (315-443-4498). Please get an Authorization letter from ODS. I would like to make every effort to support you and provide a positive learning environment.

Cell phones must be turned off. If you text, twitter, e-mail or surf, I will ask you to leave and count you as absent. You are not paying attention and worse, distracting others. To use a laptop you need my permission and must e-mail me your notes straight after class.