HCol 186
Fall 2018
Final Paper Project

For your final research paper (12- to 15-page), choose a theoretical or applied topic that allows you to explore in some detail a specific issue or question that relates to the general themes we have raised in our class.

Some Suggested Topics for the Final Paper:

1) The contributions of Islamic countries to the drafting and writing of the UDHR
2) Explore in detail a theoretical issue, such as “Tolerance in Islam” or a specific right as outlined in UDHR, such as the right to life, the right to expression, or the right of property, as it intersects with Shari'a
3) Islam and sexual “deviance” broadly defined (in specific contexts, e.g. in Egypt, in the West, etc.).
4) Women’s rights in Islam and/or feminist interpretations of Islamic scripture. The topic may be explored generally or in the context of a specific setting.
5) Islamic roots and justifications of gender segregation and veiling.
6) Female circumcision (or genital mutilation) as a human rights issue (in specific contexts).
7) Islam, human rights and criminal law (e.g. adultery, cruel and unusual punishments, capital punishment, etc.). The topic can be examined broadly or in depth (as specific case study, for example in the context of Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Iran, etc.).
8) Islam, human rights, and family law (e.g. marriage law, divorce law, inheritance, etc.; this can be a general examination or a case study.
9) Apostasy in various Islamic contexts.
10) Non-Muslim communities and their rights in various Muslim-majority societies (e.g. Lebanon, Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Indonesia, etc.).
11) International and local non-governmental human rights organizations working throughout the Islamic world (e.g., the Ibn Khaldun Center in Cairo, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, etc.).
12) Zakat and social and economic Rights.
13) Islamic attitudes towards Western formulations of human rights.
14) Operations of shari'a courts (in Iran, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, or Nigeria) and their approaches to gender and/or minority rights.
15) Islamic or Islamist justifications of rights variations among sexes and religious groups.
16) Islamic bio-ethics: Is there one? What is it? How is it relevant to the course?
17) Islamic formulations of animal rights: Can Islam promise an inter-species utopia?

You may also choose another topic in consultation with Prof. Ergene.

- A 200-word description of your project and a preliminary bibliography of your sources are due on Thursday, March 7, 2019. The final paper is due (by hard copy) in my mailbox (Wheeler House) by 10:00 am on Thursday, May 9, 2018. You will present your final paper project in the last three weeks of class.
- The preferred style for citations and bibliography is Turabian or Chicago Manual of Style.