

**COUNCIL ON AMERICAN-  
ISLAMIC RELATIONS**



**CAIR**  
PHILADELPHIA

**WORKSHOPS,  
SEMINARS,  
AND COURSES**

**2017-2018**



## COURSES, SEMINARS, AND WORKSHOPS

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*These workshops, seminars, and courses are offered without charge as a public service to the Muslim community and the wider community. For further information, and to bring one of these educational experiences to your institution, please contact our office.*

CAIR-PHILADELPHIA

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## TRACK 1: UNDERSTANDING ISLAM

### Islam 101: Introduction to Islam and Muslim Civilization

*Presenters: Iftekhhar Hussain, Asheq Fazlullah*



This 10-part course approaches Islam from a historical and scriptural perspective, covering the foundations of the religion and then exploring the economic, political and cultural institutions that arose in Muslim societies. It covers the Golden Age of Muslim civilization and then discusses its decline. In addition to an examination of source texts, contemporary issues faced by Muslims and Muslim societies will be covered. (The course has been taught at over two dozen venues in the Greater Delaware Valley region and is offered regularly.)

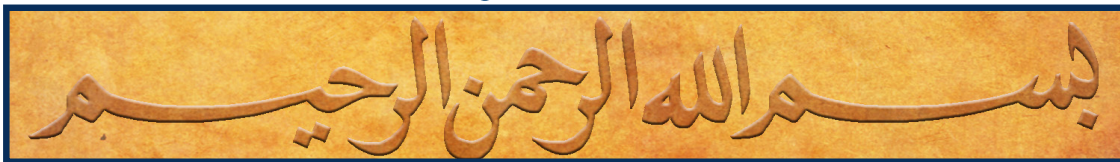
#### Schedule

- Week 1 – Foundations of Islamic Belief and Practice
- Week 2 – Foundations of Islamic Belief and Practice continued
- Week 3 – Jesus in the Qur'an
- Week 4 – Muhammad, the Early Years and Emerging Community
- Week 5 – Muhammad, the Early Years and Emerging Community, cont.
- Week 6 – Gender and Islam
- Week 7 – Gender and Islam continued
- Week 8 – The Golden Age
- Week 9 – Decline and the Birth of Islamic Reform Movements
- Week 10 – US Involvement in the Muslim World

Islam 101 is also available in 1-part, 3-part and 5-part versions.

### What is Sharia?

*Presenter: Ahmet Selim Tekelioglu*



This workshop starts with a simple question: How can we understand what Sharia is and what it says? To some, it is the textual embodiment of laws that should govern Muslim individuals and states' actions. Others argue that Sharia has many meanings, as in open to interpretation. The workshop will explain both viewpoints and will take the discussion a step further: What implications may our understandings of Sharia carry for everyday Americans, Muslim and non-Muslim alike? The workshop delves into scholarly, as well as popular engagements with this concept. Participants will leave the workshop more knowledgeable and ready to draw informed conclusions for themselves.

## Politics, Islam, and Violence

*Presenter: Iftekhhar Hussain*



This course will explore the historical development of statecraft in Muslim societies and how source text, textual interpretation and realpolitik have influenced the course of that development. We will review a brief history of the Islamic State first before delving into the birth and development of Islamic Law. The decline of the practice of Islamic Law will be explored next; this will be followed by studying the rise of political Islam as a consequence. Finally, current experiments with constitutional reform will be investigated in their Sunni and Shii manifestations. **NOTE: The length of this seminar is customizable upon request.**

- ✿ A Brief History of the Islamic State
- ✿ The Birth and Decline of Islamic Law
- ✿ The Rise of Islamism
- ✿ Sunni vs. Shii Experience with Constitutional Reform
- ✿ Understanding the Rise of ISIS

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## End of Life Care in Islamic Tradition

*Presenter: Iftekhhar Hussain*

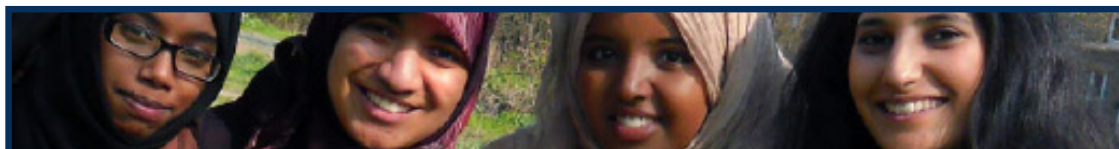


Information includes scriptural texts on hardships as tests in life, life after death, Muslim juristic positions on end of life care, spiritual comfort during dying, physician assisted death, organ donation, and other related topics. This presentation is intended for medical students.

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## Gender and Family in Islam

*Presenter: Margarita (Miriam) Abuawadeh*



This workshop will begin with an open discussion of the many myths related to the different gender roles in Islam. By having an open dialogue, we will begin bringing to light the facts related to the importance and responsibilities of both male and female in Islam. The views of the audience regarding gender will be discussed and expanded on, using the Quran, prophetic traditions, and data. We will also discuss how family life and roles have shifted here in the U.S.

## TRACK 2: AMERICAN MUSLIMS

### American Muslims and Their History

*Presenter: Ahmet Selim Tekelioglu*



Issues related to Muslims in the US continue to be part of a national debate. In the post-9/11 era, Muslim life in the United States has fundamentally altered. This workshop delves into the current dynamics shaping American Muslim communities. From conversion to inter-generational shifts in religiosity and identity construction, the workshop explores a variety of issues from multiple perspectives. Participants will learn about Islam in early American history and compare its trajectory with that of other faith traditions in America.

**NOTE:** This seminar is available in 1-part and 3-part versions.

### The Legacy of African American Muslims

*Presenter: Ahmet Selim Tekelioglu*



The African American Muslim experience lies at the very core of larger Muslim history in the United States. And yet, this history is largely underappreciated and understudied in both academia and the Muslim community. In this workshop, we will learn the deep legacy of African and African American Muslims via an exploration of the slave trade, early Muslim movements, the Nation of Islam and key figures such as Malcolm X, Imam Warith Deen Muhammad, Siraj Wahhaj, and many others. We will also examine Philadelphia's religious history, with reference to African American Muslim legacy.

### Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism

*Presenter: Jacob Bender*

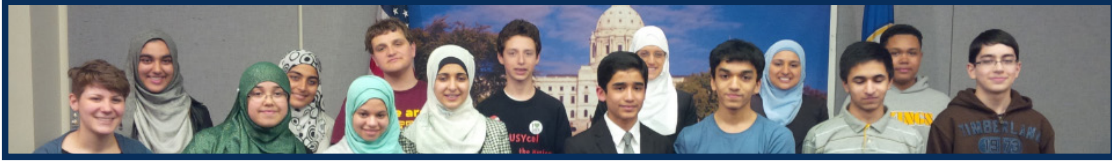


Islamophobia and anti-Semitism have much in common. Both refer to irrational fears and both are deeply embedded into Western culture. Muslims and Jews share the ignoble role of being singled out historically by the West as the archetypal "others." Hated for centuries, fantasies of Jewish and Muslim barbarity and evil still exist. This illustrated workshop looks at the history and current state of both anti-Semitism and Islamophobia with over a 100 projected images.



**TRACK 3: YOUTH AND PARENTS****Muslim Youth Leadership Program (MYLP)**

*Presenters: Asheq Fazlullah, Ahmet Selim Tekelioglu*



If you are in school chances are at some point you had to break down the meaning of Islam to your friends or explain how Islam is against terrorism to your classmates. With media saturated with negative images of Muslims and Islam, CAIR-Philadelphia designed a program to provide the youth with a conversational, interactive platform to discuss and develop actionable agendas about civil rights and community issues that arise in your daily life.

The MYLP enables youth of all ages to be proud of their Muslim identity and it promotes civic engagement and activism.

Our interactive, six-part workshop series focus on developing practical skills and understanding on:

- ✿ Understanding American Muslim History
- ✿ Building a Positive American Muslim Identity
- ✿ Civic and Political Engagement
- ✿ Standing up Against Bullying and Harassment
- ✿ Learning about Civil Rights Movement
- ✿ Understanding and Working with People of Other Faiths
- ✿ Media Literacy and Advocacy

The MYLP program is customizable in length and content for specific audiences. Contact the CAIR-Philadelphia office for further details.

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**Anti-Bullying Workshop**

*Presenters: Ahmet Selim Tekelioglu, Timothy Welbeck*

Bullying and harassment at schools and workplace is a major problem for all American Muslims. CAIR-Philadelphia offers an anti-bullying workshop where individuals, parents and other guardians learn:

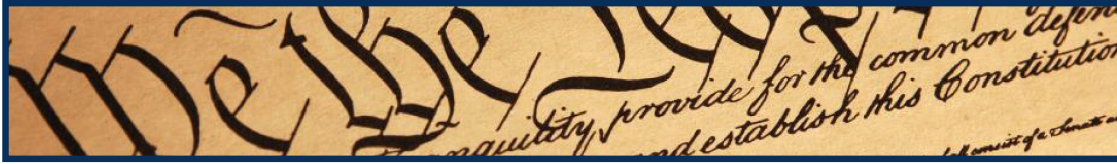
- ✿ What legal rights do children have in schools?
- ✿ What to tell children about how to respond to bullying, including cyberbullying?
- ✿ What to do when a child tells them about bullying;
- ✿ How to encourage children to empower and educate themselves;

This workshop is customizable in length and content for both parent and student audiences. Contact the CAIR-Philadelphia office for further details.

## TRACK 4: CIVIL RIGHTS

### “Know Your Rights” Workshops

*Presenters: Asheq Fazlullah, Timothy Welbeck*



CAIR-Pennsylvania’s **Know Your Rights** seminar, regularly cited by community leaders as a popular and beneficial program, discusses the proper methods in dealing with various situations at the workplace, school, airports, public accommodation, encounters with law enforcement and much more. We invite you to contact CAIR-Pennsylvania and schedule a Know Your Rights seminar for your Masjid or community. For those that have experienced problems or have questions, this seminar offers a great opportunity to have questions answered one-on-one.

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### In the Matter of Color: Racial Classifications and American Law

*Presenter: Timothy Welbeck*



This 60-90 minute workshop leads its participants into in-depth analysis of the intersection of legal categories, racial classifications, the evolution of laws governing the United States. The seminar will identify the manner in which American society shifted with regard to matters of race and racial identity through the legal system, and closely examine how courts in American society resolved matters pertaining to race. This workshop is appropriate for high school age participants and up.

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### Out of the Blue: Police Conduct Seminar

*Presenter: Timothy Welbeck*



The highly publicized deaths of Rekia Boyd, Michael Brown, Philando Castille, Jonathan Crawford, Jonathan Edwards, Ezell Ford, Eric Garner, Akai Gurley, Aiyana Stanley Jones, Laquan McDonald, Tamir Rice, Alton Sterling, Walter Scott, et al at the hands of police officers has brought renewed attention to the crisis of extrajudicial killings, and has encouraged closer examination of critical issues within law enforcement. This 60-90 minute workshop examines the conduct of police officers in the United States, and thereby will examine doctrinal, theoretical, and practical perspectives on the nature of policing at the local, state, and national level.

## Fake News: Mass Media Seminar

*Presenter: Timothy Welbeck*



El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (previously known as Malcolm X) once said, “The media have the power to make the innocent guilty and to make the guilty innocent, and that’s power because they control the minds of the masses.” As Mr. Shabazz opined more than fifty years ago, the media holds great influence within American society, especially as it pertains to the perception of minorities. This workshop is designed to analyze and critique media representations and misrepresentations and its coverage and typecasting of Muslims and people of color.

## American Jews and Political Power: Myth or Reality

*Presenter: Jacob Bender*



This workshop examines the controversial topic of Jewish political power in the US in a fair and balanced manner. We will discuss the key organizations in the American Jewish community, such as ADL, AIPAC, ACJ, and JCRC. We will also examine the heated debate inside the Jewish establishment over Israel’s occupation of Palestinian lands, and learn about the young Jewish activists who are supporting the BDS campaign (boycott, divestment, sanctions) against Israel.

## Presenters

**Ahmet Selim Tekelioglu** is CAIR-Philadelphia's Outreach and Education Director. He has a PhD in Political Science from Boston University, and is a faculty member at George Mason University. His scholarly work focuses on Islam, American Muslim experience and politics of race and ethnicity.

**Timothy Welbeck** is CAIR-Philadelphia's Staff Attorney. He graduated from Villanova University School of Law, authored many articles for both the general public and scholarly press, is currently teaching classes on law and society at Temple University.

**Asheq Fazlullah** is a member of CAIR-Philadelphia's Executive Committee. He is a graduate of Penn State at University Park. He has worked in the institutional investment management industry for over 20 years. He has presented over 100 workshops on Islam and Muslim Americans throughout the greater Delaware Valley region to churches, schools, universities, and other civic groups.

**Iftekhar Hussain** is CAIR-PA Chairperson and a student of the Islamic Sciences. He has given dozens of *khutbas* (sermons at Friday afternoon prayers) at mosques throughout the Philadelphia region.

**Margarita Miriam Abuawadeh** is a member of CAIR-Philadelphia's Executive Committee. She is currently a Bilingual Counselor Assistant with the School District of Philadelphia Dept. of Multilingual Family Support. She has served her community for over two decades in youth summer programs and has participated in many interfaith coalitions on civil and immigrant rights.

**Jacob Bender** is CAIR-Philadelphia's Executive Director since 2013. He is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and a longtime activist in interfaith relations.