

Omer M. Mozaffar

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Academic Work

Teaching:

- * **Loyola University Chicago**, Muslim Chaplain, Adjunct Professor of Theology
- * Nominated for Faculty/Staff of the Year Award by Undergraduate Student Government, Spring 2012.
- * Nominated for Faculty Award for Teaching Freshman, School Year 2011-2012
 - * *Introduction to the Qur'an*, Spring 2008, Fall 2008, Spring 2009, Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Fall 2010, Spring 2011, Summer 2011, Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2012, Spring 2013.
 - * *Qur'an as Literature*, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019.
 - * *Islam (formerly Introduction to Islam)*, Fall 2008, Summer 2010, Fall 2010, Spring 2011, Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2014 (two sections), Spring 2015, Fall 2015 (two sections), Spring 2016, Fall 2016 (two sections), Spring 2017, Fall 2017 (two sections), Spring 2018, Fall 2018 (two sections), Spring 2019, Fall 2019 (two sections), Spring 2020, Fall 2020 (two sections).
 - * *Revival and Reform in Islamic History and Thought*, Fall 2009.
 - * *Masterpieces of World Literature in Translation: Islamic Literature*, Spring 2010.
- * **The University of Chicago**, Lecturer, Graham School
- * Awarded 2011 Excellence in Teaching Award, for Humanities, Arts and Sciences, Graham School. June 2011, presented November 2011.
 - * *The Great Debate: al-Ghazali vs. Averroes*, Fall 2012.
 - * *Encountering Muslims in Epic Cinema*, Winter 2012.
 - * *Approaching the Other*, Fall 2011.
 - * *The Prose of Rumi*, Summer 2011.
 - * *Middle East Classics Curriculum*, Fall 2007 (5 sections), Winter 2008 (5 sections), Spring 2008 (5 sections), Fall 2008 (3 sections), Winter 2009 (3 sections), Spring 2009 (3 sections), Fall 2009 (3 sections), Winter 2010 (3 sections), Spring 2010 (3 sections), Fall 2010 (2 sections), Winter 2011 (2 sections), Spring 2011 (2 sections).
 - * *Islam: A State of Mind (A study of Muhammad Iqbal's Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam)*, Summer 2010.
 - * *Introduction to Muslims and Islamic History*, Summer 2008.
 - * *The Poetry of Rumi*, Summer 2008.
 - * *Al-Ghazali and the Alchemy of Islamic Thought*, Summer 2008.
- * **DePaul University**, Adjunct Professor, Islamic World Studies

- * *History of Islam in South Asia*, Winter 2012.
- * *Western Approaches to Islam*, Winter 2014.
- * *Islamic World Studies*, Spring 2014.
- * **College of Lake County**, Adjunct Professor of Humanities
 - * *Introduction to the Middle Eastern Civilizations*, Two Sections, Fall 2012. Spring 2013, Summer 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Summer 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2015.
 - * *Critical Thinking*, Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2015.
- * **North Central College**, Adjunct Professor of Religion.
 - * *Islam and the Middle East*, Fall 2005, Fall 2006, Winter 2015.
 - * *Summer Seminar on Islam*, for the Faculty, Summer 2006.
 - * *Introduction to World Religions*, Summer 2006.
 - * *Islam and Globalization*, Winter 2007.
- * **St. Xavier University**, Adjunct Professor of Religious Studies.
 - * *Islam* (also known as *The Islamic Tradition*), Fall 2004, Spring 2005 (2 sections), Fall 2005, Fall 2006, Spring 2007.
- * **Elmhurst College**, Adjunct Professor of Theology.
 - * *The Poetry and Importance of Rumi*, J-term 2007.
 - * *Islamic Mysticism and the Poetry of Rumi*, J-term 2008, J-term 2009, J-term 2010.
 - * *Introduction to Islam*, Spring 2007.
 - * *Arabic 101-102*, Fall 2007, Spring 2008.
- * **Columbia College Chicago**, Adjunct Professor of Humanities, History, and Social Science
 - * *Arabic I*, Fall 2007.
 - * *Arabic II*, Spring 2007, Fall 2008, Spring 2009.
- * **Truman College**, Adjunct Professor.
 - * *Introduction to the Qur'an*, Spring 2008, Spring 2010.

Research Assistant:

- * Geneive Abdo. Research Assistant for her book *Mecca and Mainstreet*. Spring, 2004.
- * Umar Faruq Abd-Allah, Nawawi Foundation. Assist in editing and research in books and articles. *Malik and Madina* (Published by Brill), and *A Muslim in Victorian America* (Published by OUP).

Writing Samples:

- * Numerous film essays published by Roger Ebert at RogerEbert.com, including:
 - * "Islam in Western Cinema" (Four Part Series) 08/2016
 - * "Star Wars Mythology 3.0" 1/13/2016
 - * "A Most Personal Conversation with a Most Public Kareem Abdul-Jabbar" 11/16/2015
 - * "Ramchand Pakistani: An Odyssey of Two Worlds" 10/20/2014
 - * "Bhaag Milkha Bhaag: Tales of the Flying Sikh" 10/13/2014
 - * "The Lunchbox: Old School Anonymity Softens New World Discontent" 9/23/2014

- * "The Ultimate Expression of Humanity." (*Baraka*) 4/11/2012
- * "Political Persecution, American Style." (*USA vs Al-Arian*) 4/4/2012
- * "Is Bill Maher a performer, a preacher, or a pimp?" (*Religulous*) 3/21/2012
- * "D D L J – Dee Dee Ell Jay." (*Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*) 3/20/2012
- * "Life beyond Rationality and Compassion." (*Fearless*) 3/1/2012
- * "A Lifetime in Five Minutes." (*The World's Fastest Indian*) 2/26/2012
- * "The Pursuit of Powerlessness." (*Cast Away*) 2/24/2012
- * "The Pursuit of Power." (*Chronicle*) 2/23/2012
- * "How to Win an Academy Award." 2/2/2012
- * "A Man who is on Everybody's Mind." (*Facing Ali*) 01/26/2012
- * "The Metaphysics of Digital Mysticism." (*The Matrix*) 01/20/2012
- * "The Heart is a Lonely Fighter." (*Warrior*) 01/12/2012
- * "Confessions of an Unrepentant War Profiteer." (*Lord of War*) 12/31/2011
- * "The Unraveling of a Loveless Heart." (*Young Adult*) 12/28/2011
- * "Salvation by Slugfest." (*Fight Club*) 12/15/2011
- * "Swimming an Ocean of Emotions." (*The Descendants*) 12/8/2011
- * "A man who lives between Here and There." (*Beautiful*) 11/22/2011
- * "Extinguishing the Ecstasy of Anger." (*The Interrupters*) 11/10/2011
- * "New English-Speaking Patriots." (*Fordson*) 9/03/2011
- * "Beautiful People Staring at Each Other." (*Jodhaa Akbar*) 8/11/2011
- * "Reaching for love above falling dominos." (*Tree of Life*) 7/27/2011
- * "Big Heart in a Small Heart." (*Ulee's Gold*) 7/10/2011
- * "Boulevard of Broken Manhood." (*Glengarry Glen Ross*) 6/30/2011
- * "Happiness is a little daughter." (*Matchstick Men*) 6/17/2011
- * "Happiness is a good father." (*The Pursuit of Happiness*) 6/9/2011
- * "The rose that grew from concrete." (*Tupac: Resurrection*) 6/1/2011
- * "The webs we weave." (*The Quiet American*) 5/22/2011
- * "Dear M. Night Shyamalan." 2/19/2011
- * ""Moozlums" have been here for a long time." (*Mooz-lum*) 2/7/2011
- * "The many kinds of blindness." (*The Color of Paradise*) 9/6/2011
- * "Encounters at the End of the Mind." (*Inception*) 7/28/2011
- * "The cinema of scarred hearts." (*Precious*) 4/21/2011
- * "Chicago: Second City of Imagination," *World Film Locations*, 2013.
- * "The Fugitive," *World Film Locations*, 2013.
- * "Soul Food," *World Film Locations*, 2013.
- * "Man Push Cart," *World Film Locations*, 2012.
- * "Malcolm X," *World Film Locations*, 2012.
- * "In the Shade of Napoleon and Malcolm X: Making Sense of Obama's "New Beginning" in Cairo," *Sightings*, June 2009.
- * "American Islam enters its next Phase," *Sightings*, September 2008.
- * "Caliphate is the New Jihad," *Sightings*, March, 2008.
- * "Islam out of the Dark Ages: Roadmap for the Next Revival," Feature article, *Ascent Magazine*, Spring, 2007.
- * Book Review, *The Arab Mind*, by Raphael Patai. "American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences." Summer, 2004.

Conferences and Consulting:

- * Paramount Television. Provided technical consulting on depictions of Muslims for its “Jack Ryan” television show. 2016-current.
- * CVE - CIOGC. Provided programs for JAG grant. 2015-current.
- * Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, Annual Conference, January 2016 — Presentation on interfaith sensitivities co-sponsored by Interfaith Youth Core
- * Francis Parker School (Chicago, IL), Fall 2015-Present — Strategic Advisory Role, Cultural sensitivities towards Muslim and minority staff and students
- * “Muslims in America since 9/11,” American Academy of Religion. November 2008.
- * "Portraits of Women in Islam," St. Xavier University. Involved in many aspects of the organization of the conference. November 2006.

Other Academic Work:

- * Involved with the development and subsequent redesign of the Asian Classics Curriculum (Middle East section) at the Graham School of the University of Chicago.

Sample of Lectures:

- * “The Akeda in Islam,” Abaraham Salon, November 2012.
- * “Introduction to Islam,” Winnetka Presbyterian Church, May 2012.
- * “Introduction to Islam,” Chicago Sinai Congregation, February, March, May 2011.
- * Seven Week Course on the first five sections (Rukus) of the Qur’an, given under various titles:
 - * “Towards Transformation by Way of the Qur’an,” (Co-Sponsored by the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago). M.E.C.C.A. Center, Summer 2011.
 - * “Connecting to Allah through the Qur’an,” Iqra International Educational Foundation, Summer 2011, again in Fall 2011.
 - * “Towards Transformation by Way of the Qur’an,” (Co-Sponsored by the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago). Muslim Educational Center, Spring 2011.
 - * “Fundamentals of an Islamic World View,” DePaul University (Co-Sponsored by the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago), Fall 2010.
 - * “Fundamentals of an Islamic World View.” Islamic Cultural Center of Des Plaines, Summer 2010.
- * “The Hajj,” Loyola University Museum of Art, October 2010, November 2010.
- * “Islam 101,” Faith United Methodist Church of Orland Park, Class September-October 2010.
- * “The Qur’an,” Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago, Class through January 2010.
- * “Introduction to Islam,” Loyola University Museum of Art. March 2009.
- * “History of the Taliban,” Graham School of General Studies of the University of

- Chicago. March 2009.
- * “Muslims and Democracy,” Response to Amédeé Turner, University of Chicago, Sponsored by the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. October 2008.
 - * “Introduction to Islam,” United Methodist Church, Orland Park, Illinois. October 2008.
 - * “Islamic Psychology,” The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. September 2008.
 - * “The Straight Path is a Circle: Rumi and the Cycle of Being,” University of Chicago, Sponsored by the Graham School of General Studies of the University of Chicago. May 2008.
 - * “The Book and the Faith,” Panels at St. Ambrose University and Augustana College. April 2008.
 - * “The Muslim Response to Modernity,” Cal State, Fullerton. March 2008.
 - * Lecture on Rumi, for the faculty and staff of the Basic Program of Liberal Education of the University of Chicago. March 2008.
 - * “People of the Book in the Qur’anic Paradigm,” Graham School of General Studies of the University of Chicago. March 2008.
 - * “Jihad in the Qur’an,” Graham School of General Studies, of the University of Chicago. December 2008.
 - * Panel on the film “Cache,” Sponsored by the University of Chicago. February 2008.
 - * “History and Evolution of Commentary on the Qur’an,” Qur’an Conference, Las Vegas. November, 2007.
 - * "Islam in America," North Central College. For the class *English 100*. Fall 2006.
 - * Panel on the film “Crash,” Sponsored by the University of Chicago. November 2007.
 - * Diversity lecture on Ramadan and Islam. Illinois Firefighters Insurance Company. October 2006.
 - * Diversity lecture on Ramadan. Northern Trust Bank. September 2006.
 - * Panel on "Religions and Violence," Sponsored by North Central College Department of Religion and History. Winter 2006.
 - * "Gender and Islam," North Central College. For the class *Gender in World Religions*. Fall 2005.
 - * Panel on the portrayal of Arabs and Muslims in the media. Headline Club of Chicago. October 2004
 - * Lecture on Islamic Conceptions of Death. Sponsored by the Muslim Students Association, The University of Chicago. March 2004.
 - * “Islam: The Veil Unveiled” (being an Introduction to Islam). St. John United Church of Christ (Palatine, Illinois). Co-Sponsored by Landmark Education. April 2004.
 - * Panel on Religion and Faith. The University of Chicago. Sponsored by Religion on the Quads. February 2004.
 - * “Race and Media,” DePaul University. For the class, *Race, Ethnicity, and Society*. Fall, 2002.
 - * “Islam and Terrorism.” National College of Chiropractic Medicine. December 2001.

Relevant Media Interviews

- * *Associated Press*, 08/29/10. "NYC Mosque Debate Will Shape American Islam." Rachell Zoll.
- * *The Chicago Tribune*. 10/12/06. "After sunset, let the Iftar dining begin." By Faiza Arain.
- * *The Christian Science Monitor*. 10/06/06. "In US, Ramadan gets an American Twist." By Omar Sacirbey.
- * *The New York Times*. 08/21/06. "Pakistanis Find US an Easier Fit than Britain." By Neil MacFarquhar.
- * *The Star / Daily Southtown*. 08/25/06. "Does Pop Culture have a Prayer?" By Rena Fulka.
- * *Agence France-Presse*. 03/22/03. "Muslims raise Arms against a Sea of Troubles." By Louise Daly.
- * *The Chicago Tribune*. 07/26/02. "Donations to Muslim causes drop as fears rise." By Stephen Franklin.
- * Also interviewed for television by numerous local affiliates.

Education

Research Interests (Islam):

The Qur'an, Islamic Intellectual History, Revivalist Thought, Comparative Theology, Philosophy and Social Thought, Social Change in Muslim History, Biographies, Authority, Comparative Religions, Islam in America, Mysticism, Muslim encounters with the West, Islam and Modernity

Research Interests (other):

Religion and Film, Comparative Mysticism, Dreams, Max Weber, Sigmund Freud, Joseph Campbell, Comparative Literature, Media and Society, Modernity

Prior:

- * Former PhD student. The University of Chicago, Islamics, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. 2003-2008. Studies on Hold.
- * MA (Pending), The University of Chicago, Pending. Thesis Title: "The First Pledge of al-'Aqabah and its peers: Critiquing, Comparing, Contrasting, and Constructing the Early Sources in their Depiction of One Event."
- * Intermediate Certificate in Arabic. Al-Azhar University (Cairo) by way of Cordoba University and Al-Ameen Associates, 2007.
- * MLA, The University of Chicago, 2003. Thesis Title: "God, His Slave, and their Interaction: Reflections on the Qur'anic Worldview."
- * BA, Columbia College Chicago, 1996. Film/Video.

Languages

- * Arabic – Reading, writing, speaking. Fussha.

- * Persian – Rudimentary, Reading, writing, speaking.
- * German – Reading, writing, speaking.
- * French – Reading, writing speaking.
- * Urdu – Speaking.

Non-Academic Positions

- * Winston & Strawn, 1999-2003. Desktop Support Specialist. Computer Software support (Level 2 Helpdesk).
- * Stone Container Corporation, 1998-1999. Support Services Specialist. Computer Software support (Level 1 Helpdesk).
- * NYLCare Health Plans of the Midwest, 1996-1998. Member Services Representative. Call Center Customer service.
- * Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago, 1996. TV Producer.

Affiliations

- American Academy of Religion.