

**Pastoral Theology 5235B:
The Muslim Voice: Islamic Preaching, Public Speaking and Worship**

Mondays 5:30-8:30 PM

Professor Ingrid Mattson

Course Description and Goals:

This course aims to improve the skills and knowledge of Muslims who engage in one or more of the following three practices: 1) preaching in Islamic contexts 2) representing Muslims in public worship services and interfaith events 3) engaging in public speaking about Islam.

Students who participate fully in class and complete all assignments may expect the following outcomes:

1. They will be able to identify and improve their skills and potential for preaching and public speaking.
2. They will be able to distinguish among various preaching and public speaking contexts so they are better able to engage with congregations and audiences.
3. They will be able to select from a variety of rhetorical strategies for context suitability and effectiveness.
4. They will improve their ability to have the form and content of their sermons and speeches carry their theological beliefs and religious values.
5. They will be more confident and effective representing Muslims and Islam in public worship and interfaith events.
6. They will have a better understanding of public communication needs for Muslims in Canada.

Prerequisites: This course is open to Muslim men and women who offer religious leadership and/or speak publicly about Islam on behalf of their communities.

Requirements and Grading

1. Participation: this class is highly interactive and relies on feedback and collegial support from fellow students. Active participation in all classes is mandatory. Absences may be excused only for medical reasons validated by the official medical absence policy. (20%)
2. Reading and listening summaries (30%)
3. Book review (10%)
4. Each student develops a sermon or a public presentation about Islam in consultation with the professor. The sermon or presentation will be given in class. (30%)
5. Each student will write and present two supplications or blessings they have written for an assigned occasion. (10%)

SCHEDULE

Part One: Preaching

Week One: Introduction to Class

Week Two: The History and Forms of Preaching in Islam

Week Three: Developing Your Message

Week Four: The Rules and Ethics of Preaching in Various Contexts

Week Five: The Friday Sermon

Week Six: Ramadan, the Eids and other Occasions

Week Seven: Marriage and Funerals

Week Eight: *Sermons delivered in class

Part Two: Public Speaking about Islam

Week Nine: Understanding your audience

Week Ten: Choosing a topic and FAQs about Islam

Week Eleven: *Student presentations about Islam

Part Three: Public Prayer and Worship

Week Twelve: Supplications and blessings

Week Thirteen: Worship in interfaith and multi-faith events