History & Representations of French Islam

In the current times, Islam has become the second religious faith amongst French people. French Muslims are the largest Muslim population in Western Europe. Islam has been a part of French history since the 8th century and has played since a major role in the construction of French identity. However, it is only since the 20th century that Islam has become a permanent feature of the French population and culture.

French Muslims face specific challenges and bring original issues to the contemporary national debates. They are a vivid and creative part of the current French society but they are also an important part of globalized diasporic cultures. Therefore, French Muslims represent an original case of transnational culture and identity that may fascinate students interested in the contemporary debates and issues of our globalized world.

This class will briefly introduce the students to the fundamentals of the Islamic faith. Then the course will be divided in two sections.

- First, a historical overview of the arrival and the implementation of Islam in France since the French Revolution to the present times.
- Second, through sociological and anthropological approach, students will be familiar with a range of wide and specific topics such as: the representations of historical memory through arts, French Muslims, sexual & gender issues, France and international Jihad, the French youth and their religious practices, etc.