

Deconstructing Stereotypes of Islam and Muslims

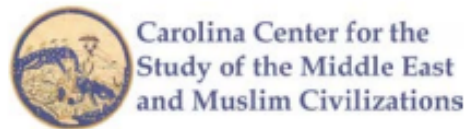
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Created as part of the Global Islam and the Arts Teaching Fellows Program.

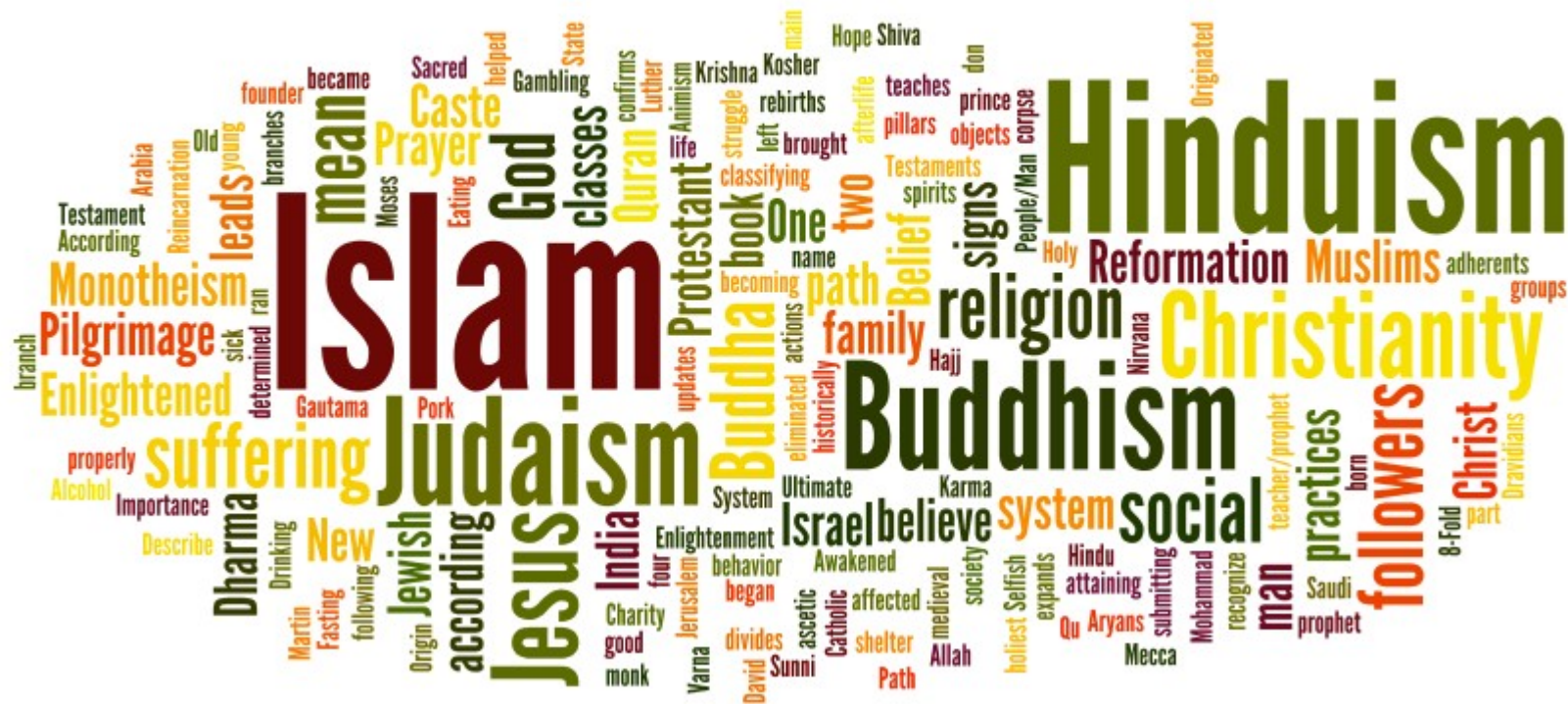
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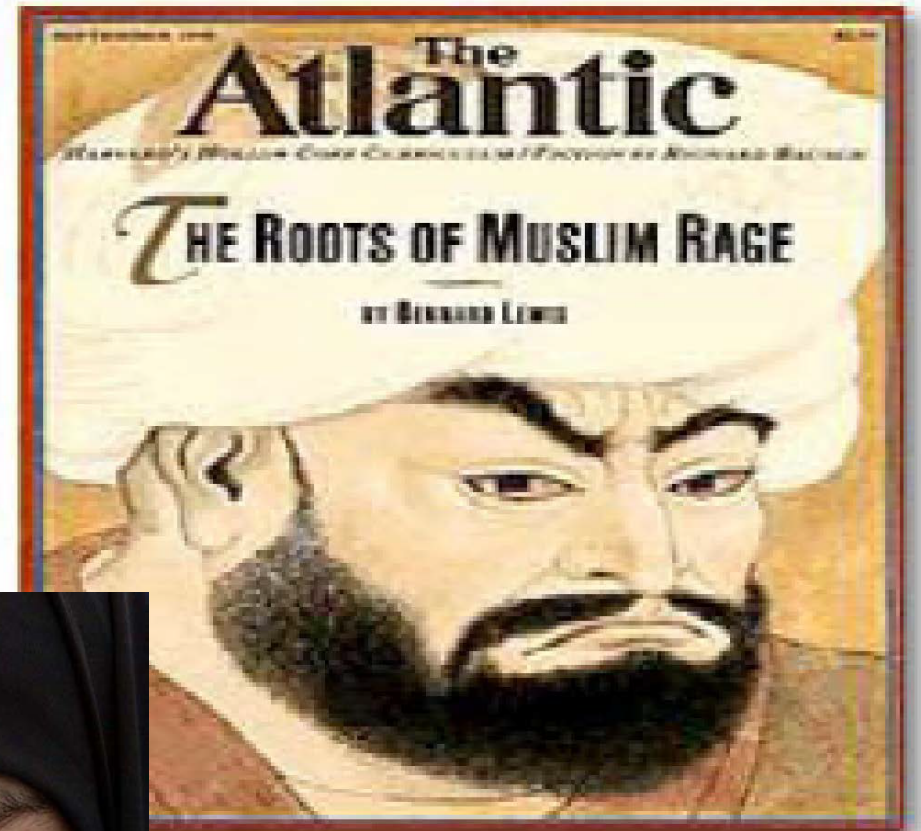
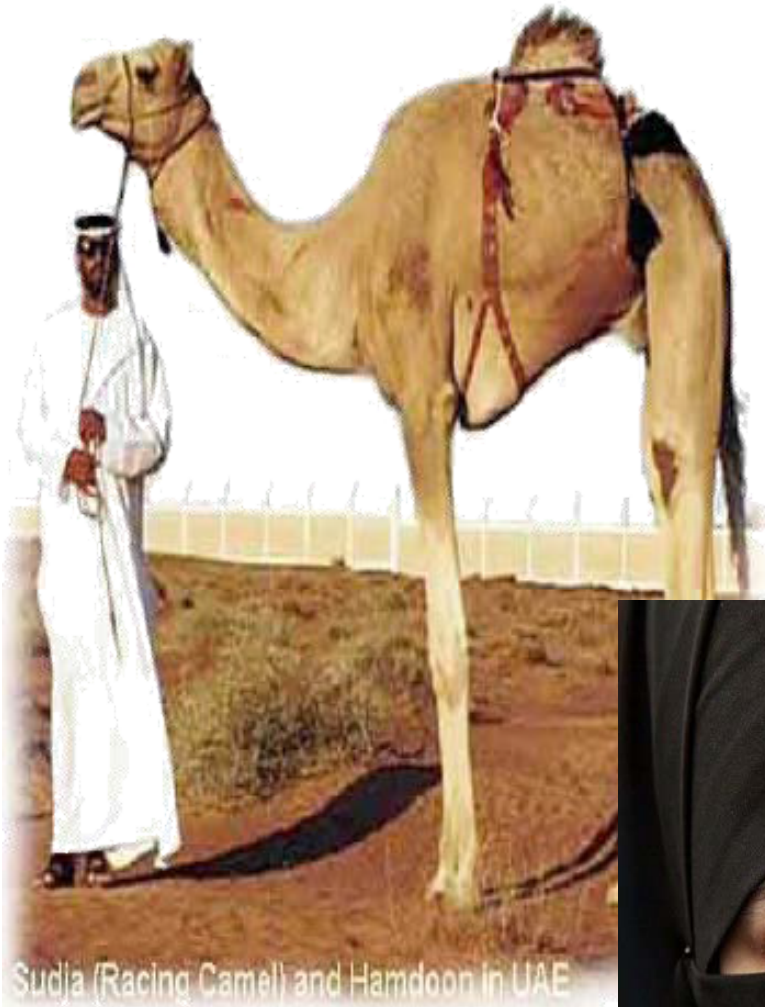
Discuss the following in your small group

- What is a stereotype?
- Have you personally ever felt the impact of stereotyping? Explain.

What are some common stereotypes you've heard about various religious groups?



What are some common stereotypes of Muslims?



“The Danger of a Single Story”

- “The single story creates stereotypes, and the problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete. They make one story become the only story.”

-Chimamanda



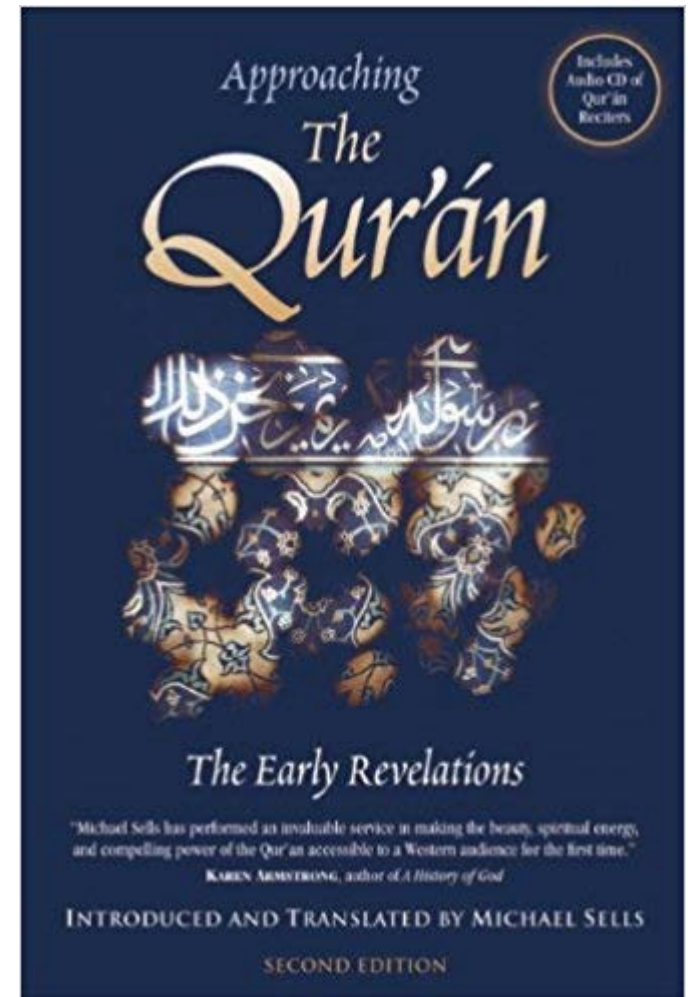
Call to Prayer: Read along and respond to the prompt on your handout



Stereotypes Hit North Carolina: An example

As you watch this clip from the Daily Show, make a mental note of all the references to stereotypes as possible

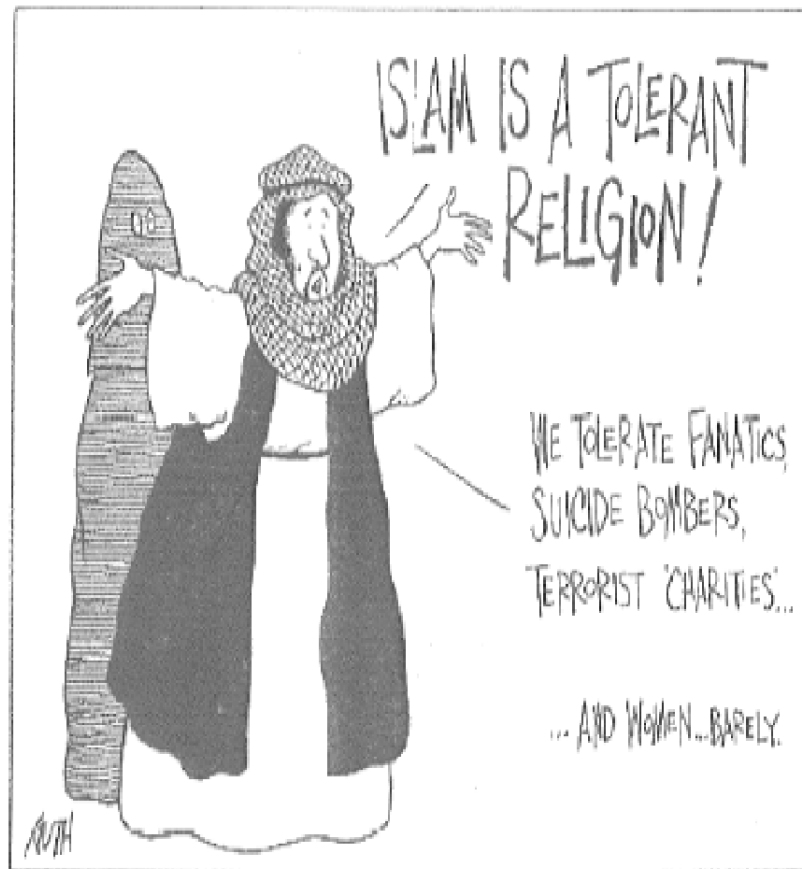
<http://www.cc.com/video-clips/z42tvv/the-daily-show-with-jon-stewart-terror-unc>



Discuss: What role has the news media played in perpetuating stereotypes of Islam and Muslims?

Tony Auth by Tony Auth

<http://www.ucomics.com/tonyauth/2002/11/28/>



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Discuss with partner/ group: What role has Hollywood played in contributing to the development of stereotypes? Think of as many examples as you can.







Deconstructing Stereotypes Related to Islam

Let's explore some common stereotypes related to Islam and Muslims. Then, let's deconstruct them.



Misconception: Islam has only a relatively recent presence in the U S

When did you think Islam first arrived in the U n i t e d States?

A North Carolina connection to Islam's long history in the Americas

- Omar Ibn Said
- 1806: sold into slavery in Senegal
- Ran away, arrested in Fayetteville, NC
- Covered prison walls in Arabic
- An educated scholar who wrote an autobiography while living in Bladen County
- [O, People of America!](#)



Misconception: There is little to no tradition of the arts associated with Islam

What comes to mind when you think of Islam and the arts?







Misconception: Islam prevents women from expressing themselves

What comes to mind when you think of the relationship between Islam and women?

Exploring Selected Counter-stereotypes of Muslims and Islam

Focus: Stereotypes related to Muslim women

As we move through the videos and images that follow, record your observations on the handout. Be prepared to discuss your thoughts with the rest of the class.





Saudi Women Stunt Hard, NPR















A fghan Cycles



Observations?

Take a moment to share some of your observations within your small group.

What did you write?

What counter-stereotypes did you observe? What surprised you? What do you have questions about?

A Handbook for Deconstructing Stereotypes of Islam and Muslims

See Activity Guidelines

