



at Vancouver School of Theology

6000 Iona Drive, Vancouver, BC V6T 1L4  
Iona Pacific Inter-Religious Centre: [www.ionapacific.ca](http://www.ionapacific.ca)

## **Summer School 2010**

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April 22, 2010

### **TH102: UNDERSTANDING ISLAM: DEMYSTIFYING THE PASSION AND POLITICS OF ISLAM**

**Raheel Raza**, *Iona Pacific Visiting Author*

**July 12 – 16, 2010**

**9 am – 12 noon**

#### **Purpose**

There is an intense struggle going on in the Islamic world today about what it means to be Muslim. Due to media hype Islam has generally been seen only in light of oil and turmoil. In an effort to unravel and demystify some of the confusing messages given by media and by some Muslims themselves, this course is an effort to give clarity to the lives of Muslims (primarily in North America) focusing on the diversity within Islam, with special emphasis on the lives of Muslim women.

#### **Competency objectives and evaluations**

All class participants are expected to meet the following criteria:

- Attendance at all five sessions of the course.
- Participate in class discussion and demonstrate familiarity with the reading assignments.

#### **Course Outline**

Monday, July 12	Background of when and how Muslims first came to North America
Tuesday, July 13	Media and Muslims – the good, bad and the ugly
Wednesday, July 14	The spiritual realm of Islam – Sufism, mysticism with a special focus on female mystics
Thursday, July 15	Sun, Sand and Muslim women - women in Islam. Myth vs Reality
Friday, July 16	Political Islam - demystifying Islam in a post 9/11 world

**REMINDER:** Students please make your own arrangements for acquisition of the summer school required texts through your **local bookstores**. Online bookstores such as Indigo.ca or Amazon.ca might have competitive prices with fast shipping to your neighbourhood. VST will NOT pre-order titles.

**Students seeking Certificate or Degree credit** for this course must also register for Dr. Christopher Ocker's Iona Pacific summer course, *TH571A: The Meaning of Life: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Perspectives, July 12-16, 2010. 1:30-4:30 pm*. Contact the Registrar for details at registrar@vst.edu

**Required Reading:** *'Required books and readings, as available, will be on reserve in the Library'*

**Please read the following before the course:**

Raza, Raheel. *Their Jihad – Not My Jihad*. Basileia Books (Nov 15 2005)  
(copies to be provided for up to 15 students)

Fatah, Tarek. *Chasing a Mirage: The Tragic Illusion of an Islamic State*. John Wiley (April 24 2008)

**Supplementary Reading:**

The following titles will also be referred to during the course.

Schwartz, Stephen. *The Other Islam: Sufism and the Road to Global Harmony*  
Doubleday Religion (Sep 16 2008)

Article: Canada's Muslims - An unnoticed part of our History.  
Hamdard Islamicus Vol. XX, No. 3, Sept. 1997 by [Daood Hassan Hamdani](#)  
<http://muslim-canada.org/cdnmuslm.htm>

Islam and the Western Media: *Stereotypes and misconceptions about Islam in the media are rooted in prejudice, and ignorance*. Bassil Akel.  
<http://www.islamfortoday.com/media.htm>

February 7, 2010

**Understanding Islamic Feminism: Interview with Ziba Mir-Hosseini**  
<http://madrasareforms.blogspot.com/2010/02/understanding-islamic-feminism.html>

**Raheel Raza** is an award winning writer, public speaker, interfaith and intercultural diversity consultant, documentary film maker, poet, playwright, interfaith advocate and is the author of *Their Jihad . . . Not My Jihad!*