

*“France and Islam” is back by popular demand!*

## **FREN 448m – FRANCE AND ISLAM**

**Professor Harrison \* M/W 10-11:50am \* Fall 2025**



The long twenty-first century has been marred by a rise in Islamophobia across the Global North. France has been one of the epicenters of Islamophobic discourses since the first “headscarf affair” (1989), and the place of Islam in France has only become more contentious since the terrorist attacks of 2015. In recent years French islamophobia has also gone viral, with the widespread and often deadly dissemination of conspiracy theories about the “replacement” of white French people by Muslim immigrants inspiring hate speech and hate crimes from Charlottesville, VA and Buffalo, NY to Christ Church, New Zealand. What are the origins of Islamophobia in France and how has it traveled across the Global North? This course will investigate the history of Islamophobia in France, focusing on the ways in which it tracks with the history of French empire in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the mass movements of populations from South to North in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, and the global war on terror following the Second Palestinian Intifada and the 9/11 attacks in the US. We will be particularly attentive to the ways in which Islamophobia has intersected with questions of gender, race, and sexuality as well as with the Palestinian question, long an antiracist rallying cry in France. Assigned texts will include novels, essays, films, and music by Frantz Fanon, Gillo Pontecorvo, Abd al Malik, Médine, and Houria Bouteldja.

*Readings in French. Prerequisite for French majors and minors: FREN 330. Crosslisted as MDES 448, REL 448. Recommended preparation for Religion majors and minors: REL 137.*