Islam/Media, 21M.289
Project 1
DUE Friday March 6, 11:59 pm

<div align="center">Response to the Qur'an and Sunnah Traditions</div>

Project Overview

Over the course of the first five weeks of "Islam/Media," we will have read the entirety of the Qur'an and explored the foundational texts of the *sunnah*, or accounts of the life and deeds of the Prophet Muhammad (in *hadith* and *sirah* traditions). These two media objects (the Qur'an, the sunnah) will in turn serve as the foundation for shari'ah, the heart of Islamic law. For this project, create a critical response to the Qur'an and/or sunnah materials we have covered in class using any medium or technological means. The default assignment is a 5-7 pp., double-spaced paper. However, alternative forms of response using other media besides writing are strongly encouraged. Possible formats might include:

- a written paper
- a short video piece (fiction or non-fiction)
- an audio piece (sound composition, podcast, experimental radio piece)
- a set of images (photographs, drawing, calligraphy)
- memorizing some part of the Qur'an and documenting (in writing, video, or sound) your experience with that process
- a computer program (database, standalone program, simple website, app)
- computer-based art/design (visualized/sonified data, etc.)

If you choose to create a media piece in a non-written format, you are encouraged to include captioning, other textual supplements to clarify your materials, and a brief piece of writing to clarify your aims with the project. If you program something, please include your code.

Thematically, your response should engage with questions of Islam and media *critically*—that is, posing questions of *how* and *why* (not just *what*), including a thesis/central argument, and justifying your opinions with supporting material. Some of our key themes thus far that may be of interest would include:

- the Qur'an's self-referentiality
- audiovisual references in the Qur'an
- Qur'an/sunnah as writing and/or as sound
- revelation (as process, as book, etc.) in the Qur'an and sunnah
- ritual as process in Qur'an/sunnah
- reckoning, calculating, enumerating in Qur'an/sunnah
- "message" and "messenger"
- storage and transmission of the Qur'an/sunnah

If you have materials in-progress for class on Monday, March 2, we will work through a quick group-critique of them. All materials should be submitted electronically by 11:59 pm on Friday, March 6.

Grading criteria

     This project should draw on the readings (and where applicable, the film screenings) from the course. If you have stayed on top of readings to this point, the project should take roughly 10-15 hours. (This is a ballpark figure—it may take more, depending on your project!) Projects will be graded according to the following criteria:

- Critical engagement with themes of Islam and media   20%
- Mastery of subject matter   20%
- Creativity/self-reflexivity in approach   15%
- Clarity (whether thesis in writing, or aims in other media forms)   15%
- Factual accuracy, citation   10%
- Revisions/proofreading/debugging   10%
- Punctuality (i.e., handing in on-time)   10%

Workshopping projects in class is not necessary but (like all forms of revision) tends to make materials stronger. If you have concerns about whether your intended project fits the scope of the project requirements, please be in touch as soon as possible (email or office hours).

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