Islam in the Classroom

Overview
The Purpose of this unit is to introduce the students to Islam in general and to the Muslim minorities in Europe, using Western European countries, mainly in Germany, France and Spain, as an example.

General Objectives
- to acquaint students with important historic events and figures in Islam
- to learn about the basic beliefs of Muslims, the five pillars, etc.
- to identify the Islamic calendar and Muslim holidays
- to learn about the important parts of a mosque and its role in Islam
- to learn about the contribution of Islam to world civilization

Topics
- Teaching about Islam in the Foreign Language Classroom
- EuroIslam
- General Information on Islam in Europe
- Challenges and Problems
- Islam in France
- Islam in Germany
- Islam in Spain
- Islam's Gifts to the World
- Words of Arabic Origin
- Film on Islam's Gifts to the World
- Islamic Councils in Europe
Specific Objectives

The students will:
- learn about the history and the situation of Muslims in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, France or Spain
- identify and name some of the Muslim organizations in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, France or Spain
- learn about the current situation of Muslims in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, France or Spain
- discuss issues, problems and challenges, the Muslim minorities are faced with in these countries
- compare the situation of Muslims in the USA with that in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, France or Spain
- gain an appreciation for and understanding of diversity and multiculturalism in German-speaking countries, France or Spain

EuroIslam Project

“The EuroIslam Project aims to encourage young Europeans to start an intercultural and interreligious dialogue, provide more knowledge about Islam and the Islamic culture and come to mutual respect and understanding.”


Hopeful signs

Rabbis, imams, meet in Spain to discuss peace, understanding

“Rabbis and imams from around the globe gathered in this southern Spanish city to discuss how to achieve mutual understanding and peace,...”

“Our religions have been taken hostage,” warned Andre Azoulay, an adviser to Morocco’s King Mohammed VI, claiming that the extremists’ message was being heard all too widely.

Seville, once a centre of Islamic culture in Moorish Spain, had now been symbolically chosen to host this dialogue. “We have to measure up to our ancestors,” Azoulay stressed.

The new forum has the support of the Spanish and Moroccan-backed Three Cultures Foundation, the Edmond de Rothschild and Ford foundations and the Kingdom Holding Company of Saudi Prince Al Walid Bin Talal.” AFP, March 20, 2006

Islam is a world religion which has approximately 1.2 billion followers. That means that one in every five people on the planet is a Muslim.
After Christianity, Islam is the second largest and the fastest growing religion in Europe. (In case we don’t count Atheism as a religion) The number of Muslims of European origin is also fast growing.

Out of the initial small citizens’ and self-help groups grew Islamic communities. Out of the “backyard mosque communities” grew complete Islamic congregations and centers.

Three Types of Muslims in Europe

1. Traditional well established Muslim populations: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Former Soviet Union, Lithuania, White Russia
2. Immigrants from Muslim countries (from former colonies, guest workers, students, ...): North Africa (France and Spain); Turkey (Germany), Pakistan and India (United Kingdom);
3. Converts and those of mixed marriages

Muslims in Europe
Challenges and Problems I

- Employment
- Social exclusion
- Discrimination (made scapegoats)

- Work
- Schools
- Education

- Housing
- Racism
- Hate crimes
- Arson attacks
- Citizenship (Rights and Duties)

Visible large distinct Muslim families vs. The lone invisible single man

Challenges and Problems II

- All Muslims are made to be responsible for the actions of individuals or small groups.
- Many problems are based on prejudice and the lack of knowledge
- Acceptance by the Christian majority
- Isolation and Parallel Society

We want suffrage! Arson attack in Solingen, Germany May 1993. 5 members of a Turkish family burned to death.
Challenges and Problems II

- Integration, adaptation and assimilation (participation vs. new citizenship laws)
- Exercising your religious rights without encroachment (the issue of Adhan)
- Notion of “Fiqh al-Mughtarab” = Islamic Law Outside the Muslim World
- Religious Radicalism (some of the 9/11 attackers studied in Europe; Madrid and London Attacks, etc.)

Islam in France

- Colonial Past
- The second largest religion with more than 6 million
- Maghreb, Turkey, Senegal, Mali, converts
- The longest tradition of immigration
- More than half of the Muslims are French citizens
- Several waves: 19th century, beginning of 20th, WW I, WW2, after WW2 (great need for workforce during restoration)
- Many consider themselves Frenchmen of Muslim Faith
- Charta of Muslim Faith (Charte du culte musulman)

“Generalized Schizophrenia in French Society” (Motard-Noar)

- “Racism or equality à la Républicaine? No AA/EO policy or protected minority data or status or ethnic criteria/quotas [1 out of 6: immigrant or child of immigrant]
- Emerging Heroes—soccer: Zidane (1998 World Cup)
- 40% unemployment for children of immigrants
- Recognition of a new major body of literature in French:
  - Tahar Ben Jelloun
  - Beur/Beurette lit.
- 2002 first round of presidential elections: Le Pen (17% of votes)
  - “insécurité” “fracture sociale” vs. massive French tourist industry in the Maghreb countries
  - 9/11 — Chirac: “Nous sommes tous américains” and fear of terrorism
- What do you put in your taboulé? Who can make the best couscous or tagine?"
1. Gastarbeiter (migrant workers) through recruitment agreements with Turkey (1961), Morocco (1963), Tunisia (1965)
2. Refugees and asylum seekers from war zones: former Yugoslavia, Lebanon, Palestine and Algeria, Iran and Afghanistan, Kurds from Turkey and Iraq
3. Students
4. College graduates and professionals
5. German Muslims (converts or by birth to Muslim and German parents)

Islam in Spain

• 711-1492 Muslim rule in Spain
• 711 - Tariq ibn-Ziyad (711)
• 732 - Charles Martel and the battle of Tours
• 1031-1492 - The Nasrid Dynasty in Grenada

An apartment building converted into the Merkez Camii Mosque in Hamburg
Islam in Spain Today

- 1970s big numbers of mainly Moroccans started to arrive to work in tourism and farming.
- The numbers grew very drastically when their families joined them in the 1980s.
- Students and entrepreneurs from Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. By 1977 these numbers expanded to include Palestinian refugees, and in 1979 Iranian refugees.
- Spain recognizes Islam as a religion, affording it a few privileges, such as teaching Islam in the schools, recognition of Muslim holidays.
- Radical Islamists linked to Al-Qaeda killed 191 persons in March 2004. However, there was no major backlash after this terror attack on the Madrid commuter trains.

Terms:

- The Moors were the medieval Muslim inhabitants of Al-Andalus and North Africa. Their culture is called “Moorish.”
- The Mozarabs: Christian minorities in Muslim-held lands.
- The Muladi: Christians who converted to Islam after the invasion.
- The Renegade: Christian individuals who embraced Islam and often fought against their former compatriots.
- The Jewish conversos: Jews who either voluntarily or forced became Christians. Some of them were crypto-Jews who kept practicing Judaism. Eventually all Jews were forced to leave Spain in 1492 by Ferdinand and Isabel, and Portugal some years later. Their converso descendants became victims of the Spanish and Portuguese Inquisitions.
Islam's Gifts to the World

"Islam's major legacy to the world is the gift of its religion. That would have been quite sufficient by itself. But there are many other assets spawned by this cultural tradition which deserve recognition and which daily influence our lives."

(I. Zepp Muslim Primer, 2000, p. 139)

Capital of the Muslim (and Arab) Empire, Baghdad was for several centuries the cultural center of the medieval Muslim world. Its brilliant intellectual life revolved around Beit al-Hikmah (House of Wisdom), an academy, library, museum, observatory, and translation center. Founded by the scholarly Caliph Mamoun in 830 A.D., the Beit al-Hikmah was the most important institution to be established since the Alexandrian Library in Egypt in the third century B.C.

The greatest single contribution of the Muslims and Arabs to Western civilization was their recovery and subsequent introduction to the West of ancient learning. At Beit al-Hikmah, hundreds of Greek, Persian, Sanskrit, and Syriac manuscripts were preserved and carefully translated into Arabic. Had the priceless manuscripts been lost, "the world would have been as poor as if they had never been produced."

(Phillip Hitti, The History of the Arabs)
The Astrolabe

A spherical astrolabe, the only one known to exist today.

Words of Arabic Origin

In his readings the Arab-German poet, Rafik Schami, used to ask the audience a riddle: What is it? If it stands by itself it is meaningless, empty and worth nothing, but when it joins others it grants them mighty and power? Do you know what it is?

It is: zero. Zero is nothing, but 1,000 without the three zeros is only one. Another word for zero in English is cipher. Cipher is an Arabic word: sifr that means either Ziffer (digit), Zahl (number) or Null (zero). The word chiffre originates also from the word sifr.
“Might I invite you to have something with me in this café? Take off your jacket and sit down here on this sofa, unless you would rather sit on the divan with the crimson mattress, of course. Would you like a cup of coffee – with one sugar lump or two? Or perhaps a nice cool carafe of lemonade, or even something alcoholic?

“But of course! Let me buy you lunch! I think artichokes would be a lovely starter, don’t you? And how about lamb with rice and spinach to follow? For dessert, what would you say to a piece of apricot tart, or an orange sorbet? And at the end of the meal we’ll have a cup of mocha.”

The most famous of Spanish interjections, Olé shouted at bull fights and audiences during an exciting performance, comes from the Arabic word “allah” which is also used in Arabic as an interjection showing our appreciation by a performance.

The influence of the Arabic language and culture on European languages and cultures began with the invasion of Spain in 714. Cordoba was the center of science, culture, literature and art in the Islamic world. Through southern Spain and southern Italy (Sicily) Islamic and Arabic traditions, customs, music, art, philosophy, mathematics, etc. influenced European languages and cultures. Many words that Italian or Spanish adopted from Arabic were adopted by other languages like Portuguese and French. Other European languages like German adopted these words from one of these languages. The influence of the Arabic language on German is therefore an indirect one, but even without knowing this one can tell that the word Algebra, Tasse, Kaffee or Risiko have an Arabic origin.

Here are some examples:

Do you speak Arabic without realizing it?

Influence of Arabic language and culture on Europe

The following are English words from Arabic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>English</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>adminar</td>
<td>cane</td>
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<tr>
<td>adobe</td>
<td>carafe</td>
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<td>alchemy</td>
<td>check</td>
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<tr>
<td>alcove</td>
<td>check-mate</td>
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<tr>
<td>albatross</td>
<td>cipher (sifr=zero)</td>
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<td>algebra</td>
<td>coffee</td>
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<tr>
<td>algorithm</td>
<td>crimson</td>
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<td>allah</td>
<td>damask</td>
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<td>almanac</td>
<td>damar</td>
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<td>arsenal</td>
<td>dill</td>
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<td>atlas</td>
<td>gauze</td>
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<td>average</td>
<td>gypsum</td>
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<td>azalea</td>
<td>hazel</td>
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<td>banana</td>
<td>jar</td>
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<td>baracks</td>
<td>jasamine</td>
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<td>caliber</td>
<td>jute</td>
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<td>candy</td>
<td>macabre</td>
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<td>magazine</td>
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<td>magnet</td>
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<td>marigold</td>
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<td>mattress</td>
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<td>nadir</td>
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<td>lancet</td>
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<td>saffron</td>
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<td>sash</td>
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<td>satin</td>
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<td>shekerbet</td>
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<td>sugar</td>
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<td>sumac</td>
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<td>syrup</td>
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<td>tambourine</td>
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<td>tariff</td>
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<td>traffic</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>zenith</td>
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<td>zero</td>
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</tbody>
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Foods introduced to the West by Arabs and Muslims:

- apricots
- Artichokes
- asparagus
- bananas
- Buckwheat
- cherries
- dates
- eggsplants
- figs
- ginger
- grapefruit
- lemons
- limes
- oranges
- pomegranates
- quinces
- rice
- spinach
- strawberries
- sugar

German Words of Arabic Origin

Admiral, Algebra, Algorithmus, Artischoke, Aprikose, Aubergine, Marzipan, Kadi, Jacke, Joppe, Koffer, Mütze, Matratze, Gamaschen, Tasse Bohnenkaffee, Kandiszucker, Konditorei, Karaffe, Limonade, massieren; these are of course German words. Did you know that all these words and hundred others came to German from Arabic. Even words that sound very German like Tasse, Lärche, Sandelholz and Ebenholz originated from the Arabic language. Can you imagine modern arithmetic and world economy using Latin numbers instead of Arabic numbers. Goethe, Lessing and Ruckert were influenced by Arab-Islamic philosophy and religion.

Albatros

[arab. al-gatts: Art Seeadler, kind of sea eagle]
The Arabic word al-gatts means the diver. The Spaniards and Portuguese called the birds that used to dive when fishing alcaduz or alcadroz according to the Arabic word for diver. First the Angloenglish changed the alg- to alb- instead of saying algataz, they used albatros (English, French, German). (Osman, p. 20)

Koffer, Couffre

[Arabic: qaffa: Flechtkorb, braided basket]
The Spanish word cofa or alcova and Catalan koffa mean Koffer (basket); Sardinian: gaffa; Italian: coffa; French: coffre. In the 12th century, the German word Koffer was derived from the French word coffre. The German words Koffer, Koffern surface in the 16th and 17th centuries. Lessing uses the word Couffre (French influence?). (Osman, p. 68)

Maske, Mask, Masque

[arab. maschara, sachara: spotten, sich lustig machen, to mock]:
The Arabic word means to make a face no one recognizes. In Span. & Port: mascara, French: masque, Dutch: masche, English: mask. The German word Maskerade was derived from Spanish mascarata in the 17th century. (Osman, p. 76)
Magazin, Magazine

[Arabic: machzan, plural machazin; Speicher, Lagerhaus, storage battery, accumulator]

The Arabic word came to European languages in two ways:
1. through Spain and the Ibero-Roman languages: Spanish: almacén; Portuguese: armazém, old Catalan: almazerem.
2. through the trade from north Africa to Europe: Catalan: magatzem; Italian: magazzino (since the 14. century); Sicilian: magasenu. The German word Magazin was derived in the 16th century from the synonymous Italian word magazzino. Since 1747, the word Magazin means also Magazin (Zeitschrift). We still use the word in German in different meanings: store room for explosives, stock room in libraries, magazine of a rifle, journals, store, tray or carousel for slides, etc.

Matratze, Mattress

[Arabic: matrah; Platz, Kissen, Matte, place, cushion, mat, that on what you sleep]

The German word Matratze is derived from the Italian matrazzo. In middle high German the word Matraz meant "mit Wolle gefülltes Ruhebett." French: matelas; Catalan: almaterach; Spanish/Portuguese: almadrache; English: matras. (Osman, p. 77)

Flamenco

The word flamenco originates from the Arabic word 'fellah-mengu', a composite word used to describe a group of rural wanderers. Blas Infante believes that "when the Moriscos, most of whom were farmers, were expelled from their homes in order to avoid death, persecution or forced deportation, they took refuge among the Gypsies becoming fellahmengu. Posing as Gypsies they managed to return to their cultural practices and ceremonies including the singing." (Blas Infante (1980) "Orígenes de lo flamenco y secreto del cante jondo" Junta de Andalucía, Seville.)

Vegetables, Fruits & Drinks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>Spanish/Italian</th>
<th>German</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>za'faran</td>
<td>za'faran</td>
<td>Safran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>al-barquq</td>
<td>al-barquq</td>
<td>Aubergine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>qandi sukar</td>
<td>qandi sukar</td>
<td>Zucker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>susan nukar</td>
<td>susan nukar</td>
<td>Artischocke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>al-barguq</td>
<td>albaricoque/ albarco</td>
<td>Artischocke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as-faran</td>
<td>azadin/ safrano</td>
<td>Safan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharah, isherbi</td>
<td>isherbi/ isherbi</td>
<td>Sorbet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sharah</td>
<td>sharah</td>
<td>Syrup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>harra</td>
<td>harra</td>
<td>Kaffee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>harshuf - ardi shauki</td>
<td>harshuf - ardi shauki</td>
<td>Kaffeebohnen (coffee bean)</td>
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<tr>
<td>asabanach</td>
<td>asabanach</td>
<td>Kaffeebohnen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kahva</td>
<td>kahva</td>
<td>Mocca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sharab</td>
<td>sharab</td>
<td>Kaffeebohnen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bunn</td>
<td>bunn</td>
<td>Mocca</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mocha in Yemen: mocca/ mezzan

Beans (Arabic for coffee): sahlab/ sahlab
We want to keep our identity as Muslims in Germany, as German Muslims. We want to be able to be different, stay in the framework of German society, but keep our religious values and lifestyle.

Society does not have the right to decide for us what parts of Islam are acceptable and what are not. This step has to come from us and we also have to be willing to use the flexibility of Muslim rules and regulations in the future to develop something you can call an Islam with German character.

Dr. Nadeem Elyas, Former President of Central Council for Muslims in Germany (ZMD)

Islam’s Gifts to the World

Non Me Mordas Ya Habibi
(Lyrics)
Abdelkader
Lyrics: French-English

Rachid Taha - Tekitoi
Lyrics: French-English

Ahmed Gündüz
(Lyrics – Deutsch)
(Lyrics – English)

Video and Audio Files

Non Me Mordas Ya Habibi

Jarcha de la moaxaja n° 8 de Jehuda Halevi (Tudela 1070-1141)
Canto, lataud, santur, salamilla, darabuga y tar.
Contraseña melodía de la nuba andalucía Hidjaz Oriental

Non Me Mordas Ya Habibi
Non me mordas ya habibi, la,
No quería daniyoso,
Al gla ja raja: basta,
A todo me refusé.

Do Not Bite Me, My Darling
Do not bite me my darling, no.
I do not love someone who hurts me.
The bodice is fragile, stop.
I say no to everything.
An Imaginary Foreigner Strike in Berlin
By Aras Ören

Conference participants from all over the world
Are fed up
Their beds are not made
The quick service forgotten.
The housing shortage deepens

Promises are great, but where are the construction workers
Pension plans need urgent subsidies
Fewer people paying, red ink everywhere
The last foreigner in Berlin turns off the lights and goes
home.
The industrial sector hangs out a sign:

We need workers! Every idiot welcome.
The man on the street is still screaming:
Ausländer raus! Foreigners out!

Islamic Councils in Europe

- France:
  - French Council of the Muslim Faith (CFCM)
  - The Paris Mosque
  - National Federation of the Muslims of France (FNMF)
  - Association des Musulmans d’Ile-de-France
  - Étudiant Musulman de France (EMF)
  - Union des Jeunes Musulmans (UJM)
  - Mouvement des Musulmans Étudiants de France (MMEF)

- German-speaking countries:
  - Islamische Gemeinschaft in Österreich (IGIO)
  - Islamrat der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
  - Muslime und Musliminnen der Schweiz (MMS)
  - Ligue des Musulmans de Suisse

- Spain:
  - Comisión Islámica de España (CIE)

- Italy:
  - Muslim World League
  - Union of Islamic Communities and Organizations

Islam and Muslims in Europe

- Islam in Western Europe: http://www.islam-info.de/muslime/index.html

Internet Sources

Islam in France Websites

- La Gauche Musulmane desMusulmans de France - LNM: http://www.lnm.org
- Union des Organisations Islamiques en France – UOIF: http://www.uoif-online.com
- Ensemble: http://ensemble-france.com
- Oumma: http://oumma.com
- Le FigarO Islam: http://musliminfo.com
- Bienvenue en terre d’Islam: http://welcomeislam-france.be

Islam in German-speaking Countries Websites

- Islamische Gemeinschaft in Österreich (IGIO): http://www.zentrum.at
- Islamrat der Bundesrepublik Deutschland: http://www.islamrat.de
- Muslime und Musliminnen der Schweiz (MMS): http://www.islam.ch
- Ligue des Musulmans de Suisse: http://www.rabita.ch

Islam in Spain Websites

- Centro Cultural Islámico de Madrid: http://www.ccismadrid.org
- Islamtrapania.com: http://www.islamtrapania.com
- Alkubrat: http://www.islam-trapania.org

Internet Sources