

## World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

**Teacher Name:** Douglas Hammerling    **Humanities Discipline:** US History World Civilizations Date: June 14, 2016

**World Religion:** Islam

**Teaching Module Title:** Islam in the United States Part II

### Teaching Module Goals:

1. Review Edward Curtis' *Muslims in America: A Short History*.
2. Explore the life of Omar Khayyam and the Rubaiyat, and its influences on Western cultures.

### Assigned Readings and Websites:

Edward Curtis, *Muslims in America A Short History*

BBC Video, *The Genius of Omar Khayyam* (available on you tube)

Edward Fitzgerald, trans., *Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*

PBS Documentary, *Muslims in America*

[http://www.pbs.org/weta/crossroads/about/show\\_muslim\\_americans.html](http://www.pbs.org/weta/crossroads/about/show_muslim_americans.html)

### Study Questions and Discussion Prompts for Students:

1. Write a short biography of Job Ben Solomon. Who was he? What was unique about his life story? Why was James Oglethorpe impressed by him?
2. Write a short biography about Omar ibn Sayyid. Use examples from his autobiography that help define his life. Who was he?
3. What was unique about Alexander Russell Webb? Describe three major events of his life that led to his conversion to Islam.
4. Who was Malcom X? How did Nation of Islam impact his life? (see pages 64-66) What was his view of Islamic religion? What was his political views?
5. How did his religious views affect his politics? How were his views accepted by Muslim Americans?
6. What was the Hart-Cellar Act and how did it change immigration to the United States?
7. Who was Minister Louis Farrakhan? Who was he a spokesman for? What prophecy did he reconfirm?
8. What is a hijab? What is argument for and against wearing it, according to Muslims themselves?
9. How else did Muslim Americans experiment with the way they dressed during the 20<sup>th</sup> century religious awakening?
10. Pages 91-93 discuss the building of mosques and schools in the United States. What did they look like? What did they try to evoke? What was the attitude of Muslims of the schools that were being built?
11. How did Muslim Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts react to events after 9/11?

(p. 108-110).

**Written or other Assessment Instruments:**

(Select one of the following to write a paper)

1. Explore the PBS site, "Muslims in America". The documentary discusses four main topics: Next Generation; American Muslims in Politics; On Faith and Religion; Issues of Discrimination. Select one topic and write a response (two pages) of the issues that are covered. How are they important to understanding what it means to be an American?
2. Who was Omar Khayyam? Who was Edward Fitzgerald? What is the *Rubaiyat*? Do we see evidence of the *Rubaiyat* in contemporary American society?