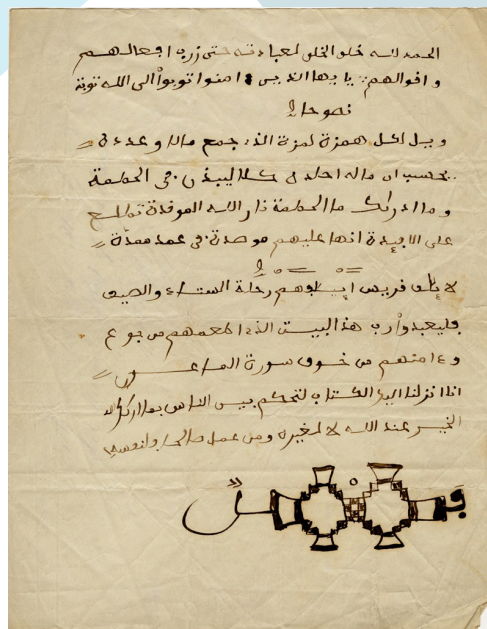


RELI 480/ASIA 480

Modern Muslim Literatures



This is a research seminar focusing on writings of enslaved African Muslims in America, particularly Omar ibn Said (1770-1864), who in 1831 wrote an autobiography in Arabic while enslaved in Bladen County, North Carolina. The focus of the class will be on new English translations of his writings, including over a dozen manuscripts containing letters and short extracts from the Qur'an and the Bible, two of which are in the Wilson Library at UNC. The class will also examine writings by amateur scholars, missionaries, and slave-owners connected to Omar. Students will develop, through a nine-stage process, oral reports and research papers on these documents in the context of slavery, racism, and the controversy over the supposed conversion of Omar to Christianity. Open to advanced undergraduates and graduate students.

Carl Ernst
cernst@email.unc.edu

Tu/Th
2:00PM-3:15PM

General Education Requirements: LA, BN, GL

