Are Islam and feminism in contradiction with each other? Find out as we explore Muslim women scholars, activists, and movements that have, over the course of the past 150 years, participated in the debate about the compatibility and relationship of Islam and feminism. We begin with an introduction to the broader debate among feminists about the role of patriarchy in religion across the globe. Why did European feminists support the colonization of Muslim majority societies in the 19th century and why do Euro-American feminists continue to critique Islam and Muslims, often based on universalizing ideas about feminism and patriarchy, and rooted in systems of anti-Muslim hostility and racism? Muslim and Islamic feminists, beginning in the early 20th century, responded to these representations and critiques in diverse ways and we will spend most of the semester reading and discussing expressions of Muslim and Islamic feminisms (in the plural) in different geographical locations and time periods. We take seriously the agency of Muslim activists and scholars to contest universalizing frameworks for gender analysis and critique and we pay special attention to the changes in Islamic norms and Muslim practices that these activists, scholars, and organizations advocate for and effect on the ground.

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Tu/Th
3:30-4:45PM