World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

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World Religion: Islam       Teaching Module Title: Islam Part 2

Teaching Module Goals:

1. Explore core Anthropological themes of cultural relativism and ethnocentrism.
2. Focus issues and examples related to Islamophobia post 9/11.
3. Do we see these issues in the greater Indianapolis area and can Anthropology help reduce Islamophobia in our communities? If so, how?

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

Bowker: World Religions, pages 176-195

Curtis: Muslims in America, selected readings

Class outline/Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts/Assessments for Students:

1. Opening Exercise:

   Distribute copies of the preface of Muslims in America and post-it notes to students. Have students read the preface and instruct them to write on post-it notes the word or phrase that stands out the most. Once finished, put students into groups of four and have them discuss their words/phrases and choose which one is most impactful to the group. Once finished, have a volunteer from each group bring their group’s selected post-it to the board. Use the words/phrases to start the conversation about the class topics.

2. General Class Lecture/Discussion
   a. Cultural Relativism
   b. Ethnocentrism
   c. Using the opening exercise, discuss how cultural relativism and ethnocentrism relate to what students selected and why.
   d. Islamophobia in our own communities
      i. Small Group Research. Put students in small groups (4 or less). Instruct students to research and select a local example of Islamophobia in the media. Students should discuss the example, summarize the example, highlight any aspects of ethnocentrism and/or cultural relativism, and summarize how Anthropological knowledge may help the situation. Students will then present to the class.
   e. Exit Ticket

Before students leave, on a sheet of paper, have them summarize what they think are the most important take-aways from the class content/discussion and also hypothesize what they can do as an individual to help reduce and discourage Islamophobia.