Middle East Summer Institute for Educators
Understanding and Teaching about the Middle East and Islam
June 23-26, 2009

Tuesday, June 23 – Content and Strategies for Teaching about the Middle East

8:15-8:45 Registration
8:45-9:00 Welcome and opening remarks
9:00-10:00 Beginnings: Addressing Stereotypes, Realities and Diversity of the Middle East
   Barbara Petzen, Education Director, Middle East Policy Council
10:00-10:50 Teaching geography of the Contemporary Middle East Using Google Earth
10:50-11:00 Break
11:00-12:00 Gender Issues in the Middle East
12:00-1:15 Lunch
1:15-2:15 “Arabic in an Hour!” and Mosque Lamp Activity
2:15-2:45 Cross-cultural Proverbs Activity
2:45-3:00 Evaluations
7:00 Film screening and discussion: Children of Heaven

Wednesday, June 24 – Connecting Cultures throughout Time and Space in the Classroom
Susan Douglass, Education Consultant, Awaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University

9:00-9:45 Building a Comfort Zone: Teaching about Religion in the Middle East
   • Old and New Frameworks for Teaching about the Middle East in World History
9:45-10:45 Historical Issues for Survey Course Teachers
   • The Arabian Peninsula as a Geographic Setting in History
   • Historiography and the Spread of Islam
   • Spread of Islam Map Activity
10:45-11:00  Break

11:00-12:00  The Middle East and the Indian Ocean: Connections Across the Eras
- Navigation Technologies and Cartography
- Crops and Commodities
- Travelers Across the Eras

12:00-1:00  Lunch; teachers may browse resource table

1:00-2:00  Multidisciplinary Teaching Resources and Approaches
- Renaissances of Learning and Multiple Transmissions
- Trade and Artistic Exchange in the Middle East
- Lessons on Cultural Interactions for Multiple Levels and Disciplines

2:00-3:00  Approaches to Hot-Button Contemporary Issues
- What is Shari’ah?
- Women, Islam and the Middle East
- Islam and Terrorism
- Human Rights and Human Wrongs

3:00-4:00  Economic Development in the Middle East
*Dr. Hadi Salehi Esfahani, Director, Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies; Professor of Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

7:00  Film screening and discussion: *A Door to the Sky*

**Thursday, June 25 – What the Arts Impart: Using Visual Arts, Literature and Poetry to Teach about the Middle East**
*Audrey Shabbas, Founder and Director, Arab World and Islamic Resources and School Services*

9:00-10:50  Understanding Islam through Visual Arts, Literature and Poetry

10:50-11:00  Break

11:00-12:00  Curricular Resources for the Classroom

12:00-1:00  Lunch

1:00-1:50  Introduction to Islamic Art: Slide Program “Doorways to Islamic Art”
Art Exercise: Triangle Grid Tessellation

1:50-3:00  Creating an Egyptian Tent Wall – Five Major Characteristics of Islamic Art

3:00-3:15  Evaluations
6:00  Dinner at Istanbul Restaurant

Friday, June 26 – Islamic Celebrations and Lifestyles
  Dr. Mohammad Khalil, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

  9:00-10:45  Islamic Calendar and Celebrations
  10:30-10:40  Break
  10:40-12:00  From Quranic Recitations to Hip Hop: Musical Expressions of Islam
  12:00-1:00  Lunch
  1:00-2:30  Visit to Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center, Urbana, IL
  2:30-3:00  Debriefing Mosque Visit
  3:00-3:15  Closing Remarks and Evaluations