

TAKE HOME ASSIGNMENT 2

Instructions: You are to write one, 2 to 3 page, single spaced, typed, argumentative essay on one of the prompts found below. Your essay should have a clear thesis, and a list of topics or points you will use to prove the thesis in the introduction paragraph. There should be body paragraphs, in standard format, that develop, present and evaluate evidence in support of your thesis. Your essay should end with a standard conclusion (a summary of the main points of the essay with a restated thesis.) Should you have any questions concerning this basic formatting, please use the boilerplate example found on my PHIL 238 website.

Prompts:

1. In *Kessler*, we read the excerpt from Khurshid Ahmad on *The Nature of Islamic Resurgence*. In addition, we were assigned portions of Al-Afghani's *Islamic Solidarity*, and Al-Mawardi's *Caliphate*. Using materials from this section of the *Kessler* text, please evaluate Ahmad's proposal that a third way can be found in Islam that avoids following the example of the colonial powers or seeks to return to some Golden Age of Islam as a means for developing and revitalizing the community of believers. Use examples from the *Qur'an*, *Hadith*, and the other materials in the *Kessler* section on Islam to support your position.

2. In *Kessler*, we read the excerpt from Fatima Mernissi on *Femininity as Subversion*. In addition, we were assigned portions of Al-Marghinani's *Marriage and Divorce*, as well as the section from the *Qur'an* on the Laws of Marriage. Consider the claims found in the Mernissi that women in Islam are under a double form of submission: to Allah and to all men, as well as the claim that women are often considered to be hostile to male authority. Critically discuss the issue of whether the traditional role of women in Islam is simply a matter of double oppression or whether there is something vital in that traditional role from which elements of women's parity can emerge. Use examples from all of the relevant sources in the *Kessler* section on Islam to support your position.

Note: You have until **NOVEMBER 7, 2005** to complete this assignment. It will be due in class on that date. Please use your time wisely, and put some effort into it. Should you have any questions or concerns about this assignment, please feel free to email me: ljwaggl@ilstu.edu.