



THE SALAAM NETWORK

Striving to make our Beloved Community of Louisville Whole

ISLAMIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO WORLD CIVILIZATION

FALL 2019 OPEN CAMPUS 8-WEEK COURSE PRESENTED BY THE SALAAM NETWORK AND THOMAS JEFFERSON UNITARIAN CHURCH (4936 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, KY 40222)

October 9, 2019: *The Core Religious Beliefs and Practices of Islam*. Presenter: Dr. Riffat Hassan, Professor Emerita U of L

The rapid escalation of Islamophobia has led to widespread negative imaging of Islam and Muslims, affecting the lives of millions in this country and the world. Dr. Hassan's presentation will center on the core religious beliefs and practices embodied in the Qur'an which Muslims regard as the source of highest authority in Islam.

Dr. Hassan will explicate the deeper meaning of the Pillars of Islam: 1) *Shahadah* (Testimony), the Muslim profession of faith which affirms belief in the Oneness of God (*Tawheed*) and in Muhammad as God's Prophet; 2) *Salat*, the name given by Muslims to their five daily prayers, fundamentally refers to being God-conscious; 3) *Zakat* (purifying welfare dues) is based on the belief that whatever we have is a "trust" from God which must be "purified" by being shared with those in need; 4) *Siyam* is fasting in the month of Ramadan when the Qur'anic revelation began, and its purpose is to foster self-discipline and the spirit of community-sharing; 5) *Hajj* is the annual pilgrimage to the Ka'bah in Mecca to be undertaken once in a lifetime by Muslims who are able to perform the rite; 6) *Jihad* primarily means striving for self-purification, and secondarily for establishing or safeguarding social justice.

Dr. Hassan will talk about the Qur'anic concept of God as "*Rabb al-'alameen*" (Creator and Sustainer of all the peoples) whose most important attribute is Mercy and Compassion. She will cite Qur'anic references which support fundamental human rights such as the right to life, respect, justice, freedom, sustenance and work. At the end she will address important contemporary issues such as those relating to Muslim women.

Dr. Riffat Hassan, Professor Emerita, University of Louisville, is a world-recognized scholar of Islam who has taught Islamic Studies at U of L for 33 years, and has also imparted education of progressive Islam to generations of students around the world. She is a pioneer of feminist theology in Islam and Jewish-Christian-Muslim interreligious dialogue in the U. S.