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Islam in Context: Understanding the Diversity within Muslim Student Populations

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"The participant in the discipline of Bushido was thought by one master swordsman, Yagyu Tajima, to have certain 'diseases' which must be cured: the desire for victory, the desire to resort to technical cunning, the desire to display all that one has learned, the desire to overawe the opponent, the desire to play a passive role, and the desire to get rid of whatever disease one may have. Any and all of these infect the mind and hamper the fluid movement of the total organism in the organic unity of the contest."

Nolan Jacobson

Understanding Buddhism

About MICDS

Established in
1859

Secular

1,250 Students
36.6% Identify as
students of color

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About the Program

The Faculty Equity & Inclusion Learning Group program started three years ago with the goal of educating our entire community in the work of equity and inclusion in a way that allowed folks to enter in places they felt they needed work on or wanted to learn more about or challenge their own bias and understanding of a particular identity or subject matter. There are fourteen classes for faculty to select from, and classes are held on a regular basis throughout the year with that learning group. Our approach empowers our colleagues to be the class leaders and facilitators of discussion, book or film studies, with their peers sharing their passion, understanding and expertise in a particular area, making certain to highlight authentic voices to encourage meaningful learning and dialogue. Providing choice, opportunities to learn from and with each other and a diversity of opportunities have been the keys to driving the success of the program.

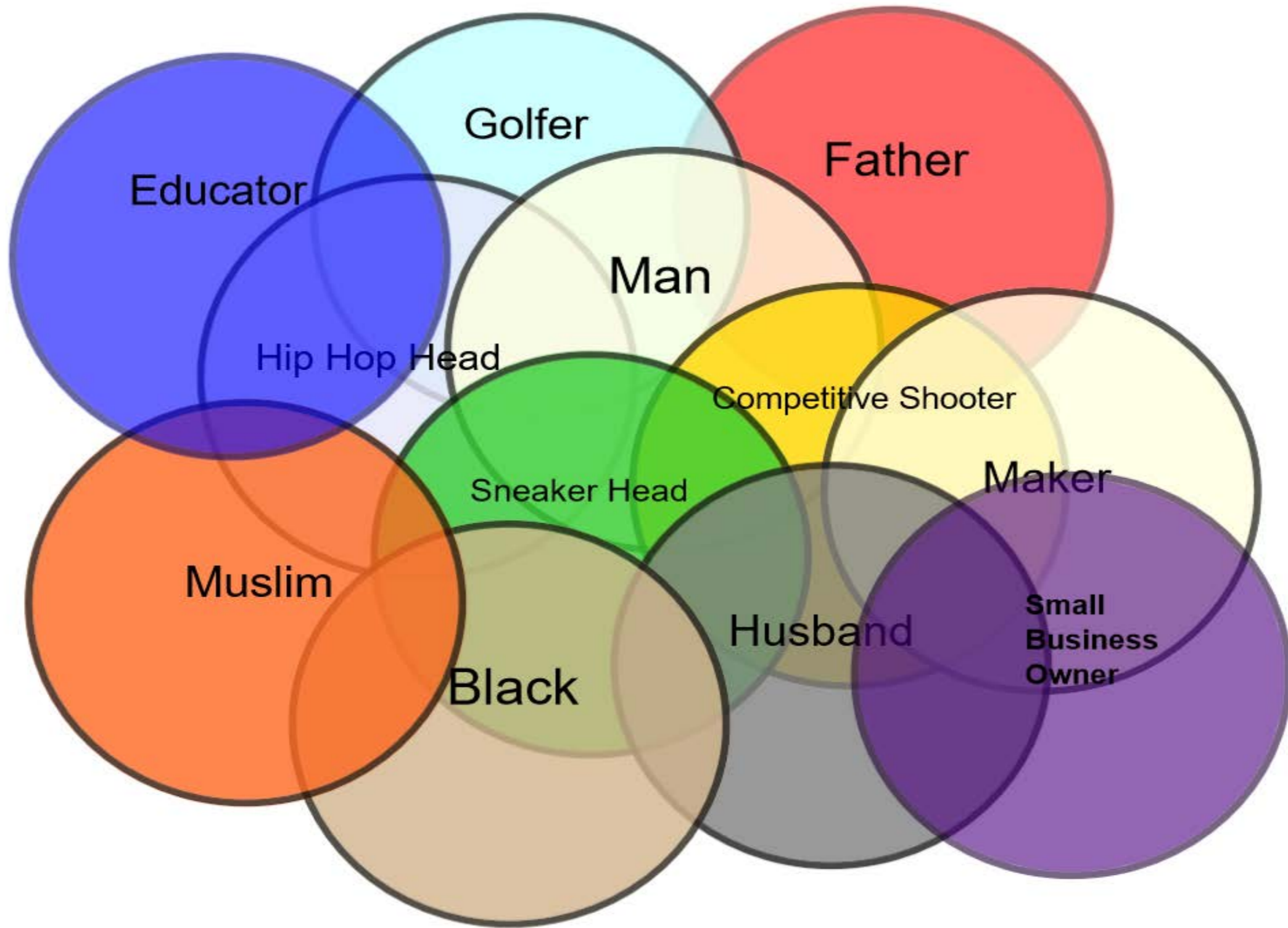
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Why “Islam in Context?”

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Course Topics

- **Historical Background**
- **Spread of Islam**
- **Women in Islam**
- **Arab/Israeli Conflict**
- **Islam and Pop Culture**
- **Islam and Democracy**





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Cultural Apostasy:

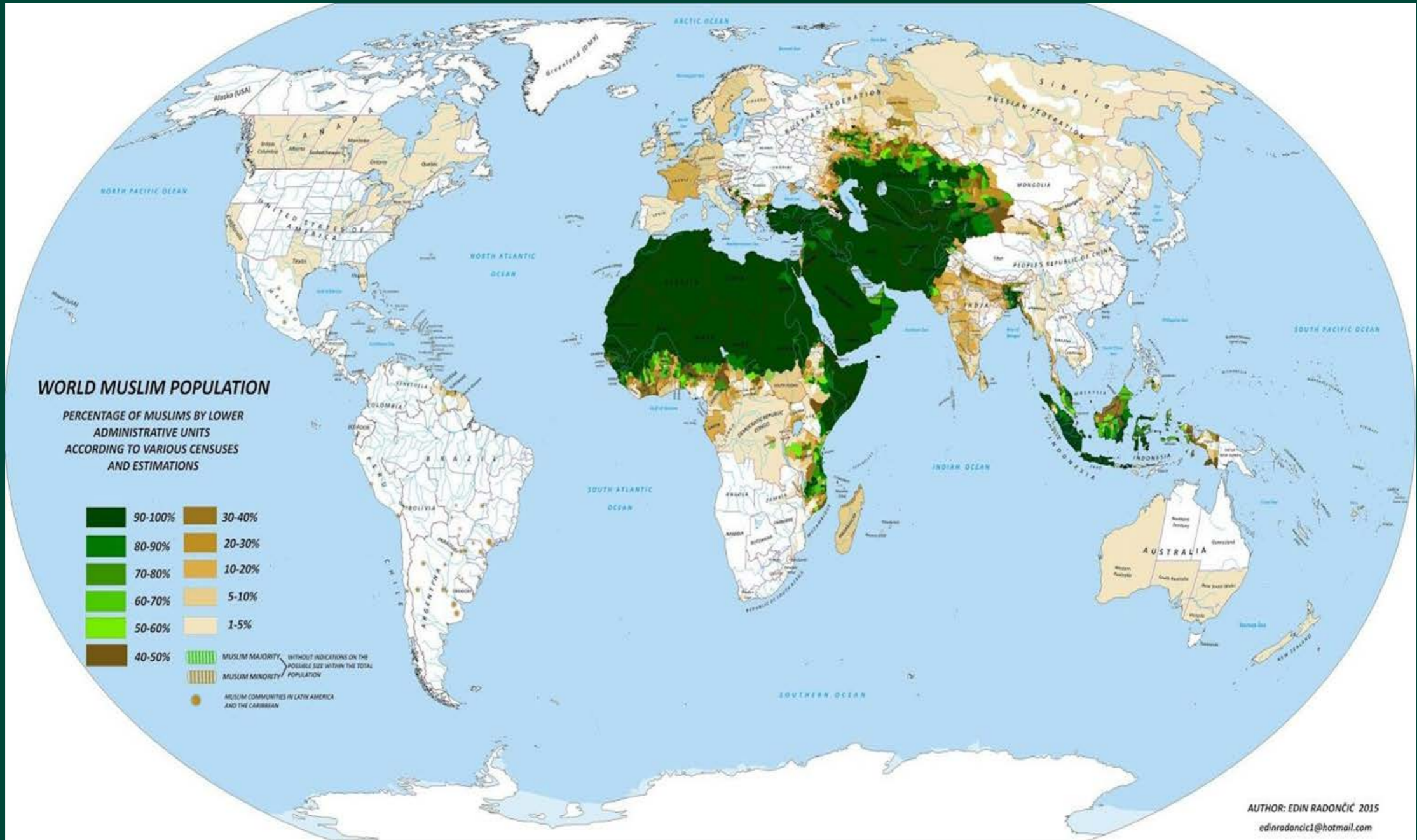
Abandonment or rejection of one's culture and traditions for the acceptance of another

“If you swear on the Quran, which does not allow religious liberty, does not support the Constitution of the United States – if you swear on the Quran, that contradicts the religious liberty given under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution,” Moore blathered. “[The Constitution] was founded on the God of the Holy Scriptures. And we recognize historically that it was that God who gave religious freedom. That’s why you have religious freedom in our country, because that is outside of government interference, except under the Quran. So, I would say if they take an oath to the Koran – no, they should not serve in Congress.”

Roy Moore

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Muslim Demographics in St. Louis



3% Muslim Population
of the 2.6 million
people in the Greater
St. Louis Region

Roughly 70,000
Bosnians

Muslim Students at MICDS

- 1,250 Students
- 3 Divisions
- 36.6% Students of Color
- Asian/Indian Highest Percentage
- Approx 2.4% Muslim

Must Know

Five Pillars

Declaration of Faith (Shahadah)

Pray Five Times a Day (Salat)

Charity (Zakat)

Fast (Sawm)

Pilgrimage (Hajj)

Must Know

Ramadan Dates

2020

April 23-May 23

2021

April 12 - May 11

2022

April 2- May 1

2023

March 22 - April 20

2024

March 10 - April 8

Must Know

Fasting is from Sunrise to Sunset
(Actually Longer)

Suhur (Before Sunrise Meal)

Iftar (Break Fast)

Not Just Food

Niyyah (Intentions)

Abstain from food, drink, sexual intercourse, bad language, violence, arguing etc.

Must Know

Sunni/Shia Split is Real

Nearly 90% of Muslims identify as Sunni

Most Shia Muslims are in Iran

Sunni/Shia Muslims do not pray together

Must Know

Halal/Haram

Permissible vs Impermissible

Varying interpretations

If You can

**Allow for space to pray
and make Wudu
(Ablution)... Can not be a
bathroom.**

Offer Halal Options

Have food for Suhur/Iftar

Please Consider

Faith is Complex

Islam is a religion and way of life

Do not “Out” Muslim students

**Race, ethnicity, nationality,
socio/economic, gender etc are all
factors in how someone presents and
practices**

**You can not determine how “Muslim”
someone is.**

Lastly

Absolutely nothing I have said here will take the place of having this conversation with your Muslim students and families.