

790A Knowledge Dispels Fear: Islam and Islamophobia: Student Interview Project

Introduction: Our class has been invited to participate in a project initiated by the Director of Muslim Life Programming and the Director of Special Collections & Archives at Wake Forest University. We will be helping the archive collect interviews capturing the Muslim student experience on campus and will be participating in our own interviews concerning the study of Islam at the Wake Forest School of Divinity. The completion, transcription, and analysis of this interview data will be combined with what we have learned in this class to reflect on our essential questions: How can knowledge dismantle fear and prejudice? How can we build a more religiously tolerant society?

Instructions: This is a four-part project:

Part 1: We will work together in class to create strong interview questions for our two kinds of participants: Muslim students willing to share their experience at Wake Forest and Divinity Students who have elected to study Islam as part of their training for ministry. We will need effective interview scripts: a list of appropriate and engaging questions.

Part 2: We will coordinate with interview participants, the Director of Muslim Life Programming, and the Director of Special Collections and Archives to conduct the interviews using digital recorders.

Part 3: We will reflect on the interview data by creating written transcripts and identifying themes.

Part 4: You will write a 4-5 page paper combining information from the interviews with everything we have learned in the course to reflect on one or both of our essential questions—a grading rubric will be provided.