

## ISEM 101 - The Sacred Journey – Final Exam Take Home Reflective Essay

**To be submitted by 9:30 a.m. on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December, if not sooner, as a Word Document (.docx) or PDF (.pdf) file, attached to [rfrey@uidaho.edu](mailto:rfrey@uidaho.edu)**

Assume the role of a Muslim scholar, who has also earned graduate degree from the University of Idaho. You have been asked by the Secretary General of the United Nations to join a special committee and assist the UN in developing a white paper – “**A Declaration of Peace.**” Specifically, the UN wants your views on “how to address and solve the catastrophic consequences of continuing human tensions, hatreds and conflict between nations, ethnic and religious groups, and social classes, with implications for regional and global warfare.”

As an Islamic scholar elder, you are firmly grounded in the **principles** of your Muslim community. And with an advanced college degree, you are also well versed in the intellectual power of the academic disciplines of the **humanities and social science**. In your contribution to “A Declaration of Peace,” integrate the key concepts and experiences from both your Muslim and academic communities, referencing specific part of the Quran, as well as referencing and using the humanities and social sciences as tools for interpretation and understanding (“Eye Juggling”).

Make your case as **compelling** as possible, utilizing any and all devices and techniques at your disposal, including references to textbook readings, PDF and HTML readings/materials, video viewings (“Inside Islam,” “Inside Mecca” and especially relevant, “Cities of Light”), guest lecture, and seminar presentations/discussions, as well as through poetic, prose, and visual imagery means of communications. **Length:** craft your response to be a minimum of 1,500 words and maximum of 1,800 words, plus any visual images (double-spaced in proper MLA or APA style).

1. From your particular Islamic perspective what are the ultimate causes of human hatred and conflict? As you will argue, this is not a simple answer, so you provide a nuanced response that identifies and interconnects the varied causes. Bring in such considerations as Islamic history, Sunni and Shia differences, Islamic Brotherhood, even the role of women, etc.
2. From your particular Islamic perspective what are the means to resolve and bring world peace between nations, ethnic and religious groups, and social classes? How can Islam address what is called by some, “Islamic Extremism and Terrorism.” Integrate social science and humanities perspectives here as well.
3. As this seminar is a “rite of passage,” now stand back and reflect on the most important “huckleberries” you experienced, picked and added to your own basket, from throughout the entire seminar – Indigenous, Hindu and Islam. How have these insights impacted who you are and how you might relate to and collaborate with others, particularly those coming from a different cultural community than yourself?