

**SPECIAL COURSE – SPRING 2012**

# Globalization, Religion, and Identity

(ANTH 498/898: Advanced Current Topics in Anthropology)

Prof. Naomi Leite

## We live in a profoundly interconnected world.

One email can travel around the globe in seconds...

*Airplanes transport millions of people from country to country every day...*

A single media image can appear simultaneously all over the world...

*Communications networks allow far-flung populations to be in regular contact...*

We routinely encounter people very different from ourselves...



*Why do some Muslim immigrant women choose wear the hijab (headscarf)? And why do other people care so much if they do?*

## What does all this interconnection mean for religion, identity, and belonging?

In this course we will explore how people experience and express religious and ethnic identity in the global era, both here in America and around the world.

Drawing on case studies involving the daily lives of Jews, Christians, Muslims, and others, as well as anthropological literature on globalization and identity, we will examine how mass migration, the media, the internet, leisure travel, and international faith-based volunteer work

are affecting the way people understand themselves—and whether they see themselves as similar to or different from distant others—throughout the world today.

The course format will emphasize discussion of readings and films. Prior courses in the social sciences are not required, but will be helpful.



*Why do American and European Jewish college students go on heritage tours to Israel? How does the trip change their identity—and why?*

**ANTH 498/898 - # 002**

**Thursdays, 3-5:30**

**124 Burnett Hall**