Welcome!

Our exhibition comprises original calligraphic designs of the word “Allah” in the Arabic script (اﷲ) submitted for Prof. Ali Asani’s Spring 2010 courses Culture and Belief 12: For the Love of God and His Prophet: Religion, Literature and the Arts and Religion E-1550: Understanding Islam and Contemporary Muslim Societies.

The calligraphic assignment is intended to introduce us to an important religious art form that is shared by Muslims around the world. In this sense, calligraphy is a significant marker of Islamic identity among Muslims who live in diverse cultures and who often have different interpretations of Islam. This plurality is reflected in the plurality of our designs.

The project consisted of learning to write “Allah,” the Arabic word for God, in the Arabic script (there was a brief tutorial in class). We were encouraged to browse through the many different calligraphic interpretations of Allah posted on the course website as well as examples of styles of Arabic calligraphy. Having familiarized ourselves with this art form, we chose a concept or symbol associated with God in the Islamic tradition (for example, God as Compassionate, Merciful or the Light of the Heavens and the Earth etc) and attempted to represent it through a calligraphic design using the word Allah. We were free to choose any medium for our design – media represented in our exhibition are as varied as montage, stain glass, water colors, photography and ceramics. Each calligraphic design is accompanied by a short explanation. We hope you enjoy our exhibition and we thank you for allowing us the opportunity to share our artistic creations with you.

- Students of Culture and Belief 12 and Religion E-1550.