

History 4790 American Religions

Study Guide: Genevive Abdo, *Mecca and Mainstreet: Muslim Life in America After 9/11*

- 1) What does it mean when Abdo writes that many Muslims in America lead “double lives” (16)
- 2) Why is the Islam practiced by Yemeni Muslims in Dearborn, Michigan, different from that practiced in the San Francisco Bay area of California?
- 3) Why do Muslims care about where they sit in their mosques?
- 4) How did the Nation of Islam present to African Americans an alternative way of being black in America?
- 5) Of the many individuals described in *Mecca and Mainstreet* who would like to invite to your home for a leisurely dinner and why?
- 6) What problems do young Muslims face in the United States?
- 7) Study is a key element in Islam. What are some of the ways that Muslims learn about their religion?
- 8) Abdo makes an argument about why Westerners “imagine” Muslim women in a certain way. What symbolic role does the veiled Muslim woman play in contemporary culture?
- 9) Although no one has exact numbers, the number of Americans converting to Islam is growing. Why?
- 10) How are contemporary Muslims reaching out to the disenfranchised?