

Name:

School/District:

Date:

DUKE UNC CONSORTIUM FOR MIDDLE EAST STUDIES OUTREACH PROGRAM

“Connecting the Middle East to the Southeast” Study Tour **Reading Guide #5**

**Instructions:** To receive 1.2 CEU credits or 12 Professional Development Contact Hours educators must successfully prepare for the tour by completing three readings and reading guides, attend the full day on August 11, and complete a post-program reflection. Reading guides can be turned in during the morning of the Study Tour, or you may email or mail this completed document to Emma Harver before at:

**Email:** harver@email.unc.edu

**Mail:** Emma Harver, CCSMEMC, 301 Pittsboro St., CB #7582, UNC at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7582

**Reading**: Abdullah, Zain. (2013). American Muslims in the Contemporary World: 1965 to the Present. In Julianne Hammer & Omid Safi (Eds.), *The Cambridge Companion to American Islam* (65-81)*.* New York: Cambridge University Press.

1. **What does the author mean by the phrase, the “Americanization of Islam”?**

1. **How has the issue of race affected the lives of American Muslims?**

1. **All religions grapple with the world around them as societies and technologies change. How are Muslim Americans blending old and new identities?**

1. **The reading mentions “Cyber Islam,” or the abundance of websites dedicated to Muslim scholars, bloggers, and institutional and group debates.** An example is the development of online fatwa forums, where Muslims can ask religious scholars for advice on permissible job choices, sports, dating, diets, etc. A **fatwa** is an Islamic legal pronouncement, issued by an expert in religious law, pertaining to a specific issue, and is usually at the request of an individual or judge to resolve an issue where Islamic jurisprudence (fiqh), is unclear. The religious expert makes the legal pronouncement by interpreting Islamic texts. As an example, browse this online forum where Muslims around the world ask for guidance on topics such as prayer, etiquette and culture: <http://www.islamweb.net/emainpage/index.php?page=fatwa&tab=1>