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The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies
Middle East Studies Program

**Siddiqi Lecture in Islamic Studies**

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
welcomes you to the inaugural

Tuesday, October 28, 2014
7:00 p.m.
James R. Cox Auditorium, Alumni Memorial Building
Speaker Biography

Sherman A. Jackson is the King Faisal Chair in Islamic Thought and Culture and Professor of Religion, Professor of American Studies and Ethnicity and Director of the Center for Islamic Thought, Culture and Practice at the University of Southern California. Prior to this appointment, he was an Arthur F. Thurnau professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Visiting Professor of Law and Professor of Afro-American Studies at the University of Michigan. He is author of *Islamic Law and the State: The Constitutional Jurisprudence of Shihāb al-Dīn al-Qarāfī* (Brill, 1996), *On the Boundaries of Theological Tolerance in Islam: Abū Hāmid al-Ghazālī’s Faysal al-Tafriqa* (Oxford, 2002), *Islam and the Blackamerican: Looking Towards the Third Resurrection* (Oxford, 2005), *Islam and the Problem of Black Suffering* (Oxford, 2009), *Sufism for Non-Sufis?: Ibn ‘Atā’ Allāh al-Sakandari’s Tāj al-‘Arūs* (Oxford, 2012) and *Initiative to Stop the Violence: Sadat’s Assassins and the Renunciation of Political Violence* (Yale University Press, forthcoming, 2014). He has authored numerous articles on various aspects of Islamic law, theology, history and Islam and Muslims in modern America. He is listed on the religion link of Religion News Writers Foundation as one of the top ten experts on Islam in America. And in both 2009 and 2012 he was named among the top 500 most influential Muslims in the world by the Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Center in Amman, Jordan and the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding.

Lecture Summary

The lecture will dispel, on the one hand, the stereotypical overstatement contained in the idea that shari‘ah covers “everything” that an individual and collective human existence entails. It will reiterate, on the other hand, the limits the Constitution places on itself in terms of how groups and individuals may relate to their respective religious traditions. This treatment of the limits of shari‘ah and the Constitution will open up the way to a discussion on the degree to which the two can mutually co-exist and talk to each other.

Program

**Opening remarks**

Rosalind I. J. Hackett  
UT Professor of Religious Studies

**Welcome**

Rickey Hall  
UT Vice Chancellor for Diversity

**Speaker introduction**

Manuela Ceballos  
UT Lecturer in Religious Studies

**Speaker**

Sherman A. Jackson  
"Converging Limits: Shari‘ah and the U.S. Constitution"

**Question and answer session**

**A word of thanks**

Eman Khalil Emara  
President of UT Muslim Students Association

**Reception, book signing, and presentation of plaque by Siddiqi Holdings**