

Lock Haven University

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The Story of Islam: What Is the Next Chapter?

Public lecture at LHU

LOCK HAVEN, PA.--Lock Haven University will host a lecture about the history of Islam by Dr. Mongi Bahoul, retired Professor of Literature at the University of Sfax in Tunisia and Senior Fulbright Scholar. Dr. Bahoul's lecture, "The Story of Islam: What Is the Next Chapter" will take place on Thursday, October 6, at 8 p.m. in Lock Haven University's Hall of Flags (Robinson Hall). The public is invited.

Dr. Bahloul will briefly trace the history of Islam as an Abrahamic religion discussing its main tenets and divisions and how it has become the major ideology in 27 nations. Its presence as a minority group in many others has led to Islamaphobia in some due to the feeling that Muslims, in some cases, have not fully assimilated to the cultures of their host countries. Whether true or not, these fears have led to enforcement of new regulations targeting Muslim dress and right wing backlashes of various types against Muslims.

He will discuss the features of the modern sovereign state and how Islam finds it easy to live with some features of the modern state, but has difficulty coping with others. These issues are especially critical during the future development of nations undergoing the Arab Spring. He will discuss a version of Islam that can incorporate the progressive features of modern society. Interestingly, this version was present in the early stages of Islamic history and has occurred at other times.

Dr. Bahoul is the guest of the Leadership Minor Program this term lecturing on topics related to Islam in the modern world.

Additional information is available from Dr. James Bean at 570-484-2626 or jbean@lhup.edu

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