

# Edward Said on Criticism, Religion, and Islam



## Dr. Colleen Keyes

*Ronning Centre  
Distinguished Visiting Fellow 2011*

*Co-sponsored by the ECMC Chair in  
Islamic Studies, University of Alberta*

In this lecture, Dr. Keyes will explore Said's idea of what he calls secular criticism and its relationship to religious ideas and attitudes. Said offers surprising constructions of the religious and the secular. Related to his notion of the centrality of the secular is his paradoxical stance on Islam and the Muslim world, which will be examined for its significance, value, and application for both secularists and those who favor a public role for religion.

**Colleen Keyes** is currently a Ph.D. student at the University of Exeter's Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies - Hartford Seminary Joint Programme. Her dissertation (thesis) is an analysis of Edward Said's thought on the religious and the secular with respect to his understanding of Islam and the Muslim and Arab world. Ms. Keyes served as faculty in English and Spanish at a variety of schools and universities in the US and the UAE, and from 1994-2009 at Tunxis Community College, Farmington, CT, where she was also Chairperson of the Humanities Department, and finally Dean of Academic Affairs for eight years. She is active in CT in interfaith work, political activism for Palestinian rights, and political affairs pertaining to Muslims. She is an active member of the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut and serves on the Advisory Board of the Duncan Black MacDonald Center of the Hartford Seminary as well as the Board of Directors of CAIR-CT

**Monday, 7 March 2011, 7:00-8:30 p.m.**  
**C014, Classroom Building**  
**Augustana Campus, Camrose**

**Friday, 11 March 2011, 10:00-11:00 a.m.**  
**N210, King's University College, Edmonton**



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