

**Join us for the CHASS Annual Theme Event
Featuring**

CHASS THEME 2008-09
RELIGION

Reza Aslan

Assistant Professor of Creative Writing

Hajj: The Pilgrimage

Tuesday February 24, 2009

1:00-2:00 PM

HMNSS 1500



The Hajj is a pilgrimage to Mecca. It's the largest annual pilgrimage in the world. It's the fifth pillar of Islam and an obligation that must be carried out at least once in the lifetime of every able-bodied Muslim who can afford to do so.

At a time when the health of the world may rely on bridging the divide between the U.S. and the Middle East, Reza Aslan, a professor of creative writing, is someone who is qualified to mediate the dialogue.

His first book, *No god but God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam* was short-listed for the Guardian (UK) First Book Award and nominated for a PEN USA award for research non-fiction.

He has written for the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Times*, *Slate*, *Boston Globe*, the *Washington Post*, the *Guardian*, *Chicago Tribune*, the *Nation*, and others, and has appeared on *The Daily Show*, *Meet The Press*, *Hardball*, *Real Time with Bill Maher*, *The Colbert Report*, *Anderson Cooper*, and *Nightline*.