Islamic Scholar to Talk on 'Islam, Women, Politics' Jan. 17 at Cal Poly

University of Colorado professor and Islamic scholar Frederick Denny will kick off Cal Poly's winter quarter Philosophy at Poly series with a talk titled "Islam, Women and Politics" at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 17.

Denny, chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Colorado's Boulder campus, will speak in Philips Hall in the Christopher Cohan Center.

In his talk, Denny will address some ways in which Muslim women in diverse regions such as the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia, and North America view themselves within their religious, cultural and political traditions and institutions. He will also focus on women's rights and human rights, in the sense of both contemporary international norms and Islamic standards.

Denny will also examine the politics associated with veiling as well as the push and pull between activist liberal and fundamentalist trends and advocates concerning women's status and roles.

"A key concern in my continuing scholarship on rights is the search for mediating discourses between global and Islamic rights schemes," Denny said. "I will be looking at gender politics and other types of politics, particularly as they pertain to human rights and the question of how Muslims are beginning to view cultural modernity as not just a 'Western' phenomenon/ideology."

"Denny is considered one of the most distinguished scholars of Islam in the United States," according to Cal Poly Philosophy Professor Judy Saltzman-Saveker. He has written a number of books and articles on Islam and religious studies, including the widely used textbook "An Introduction to Islam."

The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information,
contact Cal Poly's Philosophy Department at 756-2041.