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### Expert to speak about Muslim world, Iraqi politics

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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Expert to speak about Muslim world, Iraqi politics" (2009). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 22066.  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Nov. 23, 2009

**Contact:** Richard Drake, UM history professor and lecture series organizer, 406-243-2981, [richard.drake@umontana.edu](mailto:richard.drake@umontana.edu).

### **EXPERT TO SPEAK ABOUT MUSLIM WORLD, IRAQI POLITICS**

#### **MISSOULA —**

Juan R. I. Cole, the Richard P. Mitchell Collegiate Professor of History at the University of Michigan, will give the next installment of the President's Lecture Series at The University of Montana.

Cole will present "Engaging the Muslim World" at 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, in the University Center Ballroom. The event is UM's annual Ezio Cappadocia Memorial Lecture on Politics and History.

Earlier that day from 3:10 to 4:30 p.m., Cole will give a seminar titled "Iraqi Politics on the Eve of the Election: Prospects for Obama's Disengagement" in Gallagher Business Building Room 123.

Both events are free and open to the public.

A heavily published scholar and a sought-after commentator on Islamic politics and culture, Cole will discuss his latest research on the troubled relationship between the West and the Muslim world.

Cole is an award-winning educator and has written extensively about Egypt, Iran, Iraq and South Asia. He is the author of several books, including "Engaging the Muslim World,"

published this year by Palgrave Macmillan. He lived in various parts of the Muslim world for nearly 10 years and continues to travel widely there.

Cole has been a regular guest on the "The News Hour with Jim Lehrer" and has appeared on "ABC Nightly News," "Nightline," "Charlie Rose," "Anderson Cooper 360," "Countdown with Keith Olbermann," the "Today" show and other news programs.

He received a bachelor's degree in history and literature of religions from Northwestern University, a master's degree in Arabic studies and history from American University in Cairo and a doctorate in Islamic studies from the University of California, Los Angeles.

More information about the President's Lecture Series is online at <http://www.umt.edu/president/lectures>.

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