

**PROGRAM FOR SERMEISS FALL MEETING
OCTOBER 11-13, 2013
VALLE CRUCIS, NORTH CAROLINA**

Friday, October 11

6:30 p.m. Dinner
8:00 p.m. Reception & Executive Board Meeting

Saturday, October 12

8:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:10-10:00 “Is the South Caucasus Region a Part of the Middle East?”
Michael B. Bishku (Georgia Regents University)

10:00-10:50 “The Orientalist Collection of an Egyptian Entrepreneur”
Caroline Williams (Independent Scholar)

11:00-11:50 “Must God Provide the Best? Divine Obligation and Moral Identity in
Islamic Thought”
Anthony Byrd (Emory University)

12:00 p.m. Lunch & Autumn in the Mountains

2:30-3:00 Business Meeting

3:00-3:50 “Conflict Resolution of Border Disputes in the Arabian Gulf”
Krista E. Wiegand (Georgia Southern University)

4:00-4:50 “The Definition of Intellect (*‘aql*) in Early Shī‘ite *hadīth* and its Authority
within Shī‘ite Intellectual Life”
Reza Hemyari (George Washington University)

6:00 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Films

Sunday, October 13

8:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:10-10:00 Topic for Open Discussion (TBA)

10:10-11:45 Current Events Roundtable Discussion led by Skip Clark (Georgia
Regents University)

12:00 p.m. Lunch and Departure