

Islam: Politics and Terrorism

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Office Hours:

Course Description

The course will deal with the interaction between Islam and politics in the modern Middle East (19th and 20th Centuries). It will analyze the formation of religious approaches to politics and government from the pre-modern period till the present, with an emphasis on the modern period; it will discuss the impact of political processes on the evolution of religious ideologies; the use of religion for political mobilization and alternatively as a source of political identity. Among others, the course will discuss the Muslim Brothers movements in various countries; the rise of the radical Salafi-jihadist movement; relations between clergy and state in Iran; the attitude of Islamist movements towards gender issues; the role of religion in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the dilemma of religious movements and democracy.

Course Policy

Smartphones and cellular phones should be shut during class. Laptops are allowed.

Course Requirements (see attached document including examination guidelines)

Mid Term Exam: 15%

Take Home Exam 85%

Active participation will grant a bonus.

Attendance and Participation:

Attendance to class is mandatory. Students who will miss more than three classes without a valid excuse will not be allowed to take the exam.

1: Islam and Politics: Introduction

Albert Hourani, *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age* (Cambridge, 1983), pp. 1-24.

Bernard Lewis, "The Roots of Muslim Rage," *Atlantic Magazine* (September 1990).

Ira Lapidus, "State and Religion in Islamic Societies," *Past and Present*, No. 155 (May 1996), pp. 3-27.

2: Early Islamic Reformers

Ali Rahnama, *Pioneers of Islamic Revival* (New York, 1994), 11-63.

Albert Hourani, *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age*, pp. 103-160, 171-209.

3: Religion and State in Iran

Mansoor Moaddel, "The Shi'i Ulama and the State in Iran," *Theory and Society*, Vol. 15, No. 4. (Jul., 1986), pp. 519-556.

Janet Afary, "The place of Shi'i clerics in the first Iranian constitution," *Critical Research on Religion*, 1:3 (2013), pp. 327-346

4. The Muslim Brethren

David Commins, "Hassan al-Banna, 1906-1949," in Ali Rahnama (ed.), *Pioneers of Islamic Revival* (London, 1988), pp. 125-154.

Munson, Ziad. "Islamic Mobilization." *The Sociological Quarterly* 42:4 (2001), pp. 487-510.

5. What is Fundamentalism

Nikki Keddie, "The New Religious Politics: Where, When and Why Do Fundamentalisms' Appear?" *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, Vol. 40, No. 4, (October 1998), pp. 696-723.

6. Sunni Radicalism

Guilain Denoex, "The forgotten swamp: Navigating political Islam," *Middle East Policy* 9:2 (June 2002), pp. 56-81.

Sayed Khatab, "Hakimiyyah" and "Jahiliyyah" in the Thought of Sayyid Qutb," *Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 38, No. 3 (July, 2002), pp. 145-170.

7. Shi'i Radicalism and the Iranian Revolution

Shahroukh Akhavi, "The Pahlavi Era," in S. H. Nasr et al. *Expectations of the Millennium* (Albani, 1989), pp. 218-229

Norman Calder, "Accommodation and Revolution in Imami Shi'i Jurisprudence: Khumayni and the Classical Tradition" *Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 18(1982)

Yann Richard, "Modern Iranian Political Thought" in Keddie, *Roots of Revolution* (New Haven, 1981), pp. 213-230

Misagh Parsa, "Theories of Collective Action and the Iranian Revolution," *Sociological Forum*, Vol. 31, No. 1 (Winter, 1988), pp. 44-71

Arjomand, *The Turban for the Crown* (Oxford, 1985), pp. 91-133.

8: Hizballah: The Party of God in Lebanon

E. Zisser, "Hizballah: Between Armed Struggle and Domestic Politics," in Barry Rubin (ed.), *Revolutionaries and Reformers: Contemporary Islamic Movements in the Middle East* (Albany, 2003), pp. 91-104

Hilal Kashan, "Hizbullaha's Jihad Concept," *Journal of Religion and Society* Vol. 9(2007), pp. 1-19.

9. Islam and the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Meir Litvak, "The Islamization of the Israeli-Arab Conflict: the Case of Hamas," *Middle Eastern Studies* Vol. 23 No. 1(1998), pp. 148-163.

Shaul Mishal, "The Pragmatic Dimension of the Palestinian Hamas: A Network Perspective," *Armed Forces & Society* vol. 29 no. 4 (Summer 2003), pp. 569-589.

10. Al-Qaida and Trans-National Terrorism

Quintan Wiktorowicz, "The New Global Threat: Transnational Salafis and Jihad," *Middle East Policy* Vol. 8, No. 4 (2001), pp. 18-38.

Michael Doran, "The Pragmatic Fanaticism of al Qaeda: An Anatomy of Extremism in Middle Eastern Politics." *Political Science Quarterly* 117 (2), 2002: 177-190.

11. Islamism and Democracy: Compatibility or Conflict

Emmanuel Sivan, "Arabs and Democracy: Illusions of Change," *Journal of Democracy* 11:3 (July 2000)

Uriya Shavit, "Is Shura a Muslim Form of Democracy? Roots and Systemization of a Polemic," *Middle Eastern Studies*, 46:3 (2010), 349-374.

J. Afary, "The War Against Feminism in the Name of the Almighty: Making Sense of Gender and Fundamentalism," *New Left Review* (July-August 1997): 89-110.

12. The Islamic Republic of Iran: Islamism or Populism

Mohsen Milani, "The Transformation of the Velayet-e Faqih Institution: From Khomeini to Khamene'i," *The Muslim World* 82 (1992), 175-190

Walter Posch, *The Third World, Global Islam and Pragmatism: The Making of Iranian Foreign Policy*, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Research Paper, 2013.

13. Religion and Politics in Iraq

Søren Schmidt, "The role of religion in politics the case of Shia Islamism in Iraq." *Nordic Journal of Religion and Society* 22.2 (2009): 123-43.

Nimrod Raphaeli, "Understanding Muqtada al-Sadr," *Middle East Quarterly* Fall 2004, pp. 33-42

14. Islamism and the Arab Spring

Samuel Tadros, "Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood After the Revolution," *Current Trends in Islamist Ideology* no. 12(2011), pp 5-20

Hassan Mneimneh," The Spring of a New Political Salafism?" *Current Trends in Islamist Ideology* no. 12(2011), pp. 21-36

Aymenn Jawad al-Tamimi, "The Dawn of the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham," *Current Trends in Islamist Ideology* no. 16(2014), pp. 5-15.