Islam: Politics and Terrorism
litvak@tauex.tau.ac.il
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
2: Early Islamic Reformers

3: Religion and State in Iran

4. The Muslim Brethren


5. What is Fundamentalism

6. Sunni Radicalism

7. Shi‘i Radicalism and the Iranian Revolution

8: Hizballah: The Party of God in Lebanon


9. Islam and the Arab-Israeli Conflict


10. Al-Qaida and Trans-National Terrorism


11. Islamism and Democracy: Compatibility or Conflict


12. The Islamic Republic of Iran: Islamism or Populism
Mohsen Milani, "The Transformation of the Velayat-e Faqih Institution: From Khomeini to Khamene’i, The Muslim World 82 (1992), 175-190


13. Religion and Politics in Iraq

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

14. Islamism and the Arab Spring


---

**TAU International Course Guidelines**

**Rules and Respectful Behavior**
- No cell phones or laptops permitted in class unless approved by instructor for use
- Tardiness to class is not permitted
- As our courses bring together students from many different styles of learning and from a wide variety of home institutions, we ask that students remain respectful to and patient with fellow classmates at all time as some students may be more familiar with certain course material or procedures than others.

**Learning Accommodations**
In accordance to University guidelines, students with learning disabilities or accommodation requests must submit official documentation from their home country / university (translated into English by notary if not already in English) to TAU International (tauacademic@tauex.tau.ac.il) in advance of arrival describing in detail any specific needs they have. Students must also bring a copy of this documentation with them on-site and give it to their faculty on the first day of class while introducing themselves so that the faculty know who they are and what sorts of needs they may have. TAU International and its faculty cannot guarantee that all accommodations received at the home school can be similarly met at TAU but certainly does the best it can to make any suitable accommodations possible that are needed.

**In-class Exams**
TAU does not permit, under any circumstances, taking any in-class (including mid or final) exams early or later than the scheduled exam day. When selecting courses, it is thus very important to note below if there is an in-class midterm or final exam as this date/exam cannot be changed. Early departures from the program are not approved, nor are early or exception in-class exams.

**TAU International Absence Policy**
Attendance is **mandatory** in all of the courses. Missing classes will be reflected in the final grade of the course. Up to three justified absences from classes will be accepted (for example: emergency matter or illness, both of which will require an official doctor’s note sent to the faculty on the day of the absence). Such cases of absence should be reported to your lecturer immediately and again, a doctor’s note is required. Students are required to arrive on time for classes. Teachers are entitled to treat any single case of lateness and/or repeated lateness as an unjustified absence. Please note that according to TAU Academic Policy, if a student's behavior or attendance during the semester is disagreeable his/her course participation may be cancelled at the discretion of TAU.

*Students are responsible for reading and adhering to the policies and procedures in the TAU International Academic Handbook posted here at all times.*