

POLSC 524: POLITICAL ISLAM

Kansas State University, Department of Political Science
Spring 2016

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Office Hours:
Tuesday: 12:30-2:00pm
OR by appointment

Course Description

Who are the Islamists? Is Islam compatible with democracy? What is Shari'a? Is Hezbollah a political party or a terrorist organization? Why are religious scholars so powerful in Iran? Can Muslim Brothers make Egypt democratic? What does ISIS want? What are the causes of Islamophobia in the West? Why do Sunnis and Shia fight? We are exposed to significant media coverage about these questions on a daily basis. In this course we will survey these issues across the political systems in the Muslim world. The main goal of this course is to provide a better understanding of political Islam. As such, it is designed to educate students about the political actors, processes, and institutions in the Muslim World. Another objective is to teach students the main tenets of Muslim politics and make them conscious citizens who can sort out the abundant information about this topic and critically evaluate it.

Reading Requirements

The required readings for this course are available via-K-State Online or K-State libraries. You should also check the current events in the medium of your choice to keep up with the most recent developments in Muslim countries.

Course Structure and Rules

It is imperative that students complete the assigned readings in a timely manner. This is the key to your success. You should submit your assignments in a timely manner. If you fail to submit your assignment on time, you will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade for each late day. Documented medical emergencies and university related activities qualify for the extension of the submission date. Family emergencies will be accepted when a letter is taken from a family member. I reserve the right to accept or reject this kind of excuse depending on the nature of the emergency.

The following are the components of grading:

- Short Exams (30 points)
- Final Exam (20 points)
- Term Paper (30 points)
- Group Presentation and Discussion (20 points)

Short Exams (30 points): There will be 4 short exams throughout the semester. Each exam is worth 10 points and the lowest score will be dropped. These exams are designed to evaluate your understanding of the material introduced over several weeks (2-3 weeks). As such, these exams are more challenging than quizzes, but less comprehensive than the final exam. You may expect to see multiple choice, short answer, or matching questions in these tests. These exams will also help you prepare for the final exam.

Take home Exam (20 points): In place of the final exam, you will be given a take home exam. I will post the questions on CANVAS at least one week in advance. The questions will be essay questions asking you to apply the knowledge gained in the class to a significant problem about political Islam. I will provide more guidance before the exam takes place.

Paper (30 points): In the course, you will research a topic and write a research paper. The paper will be 5-6 pages long, typed in word with 12 font size. Your paper should include a good introduction to the topic (one paragraph), a good description and discussion of the topic based on your research, and one-two pages of your own comments.

You can use scholarly papers and books, but *absolutely no Wikipedia entries*. While Wikipedia and similar online resources contain useful information, this information does not meet the scientific standards. The acceptable resources include articles in peer-reviewed journals or journals with a good reputation (e.g. Foreign Affairs), reports and articles published by prominent think-tanks (e.g. Brookings, Council on Foreign Relations), books published by a university press or well-known publishers. If you are not sure about which resources to use, compile a list of articles, book chapters, etc. and send the list to me for approval (do not post the actual resources, but just the list of resources). I may recommend additional resources based on your list. To avoid plagiarism, you should report references for quotes, cite the resources you used in the paper, and include a bibliography page in the end. I do not require a specific reference style but I recommend using APA. For more information see <http://www.apastyle.org/>

Group Presentation and Discussion (20 points): During certain class sessions, we will discuss current events about different aspects of political Islam. While I will guide these discussion sessions, this is mainly a student activity. The success of this event depends on your preparation and willingness to participate. Students will be organized into groups of 4-5 students. Each group will research their topic and present their findings. Current events discussion should start with a summary of the research findings (15-20 minutes at most). The discussion leader(s) should talk about the main problem and introduce the controversies related to it. You may use power point, Prezi, or any other program of your choice present your summary. You can use visuals (pictures, short videos etc.) during your presentation. Once the presentation is complete, the discussion facilitators should start a class discussion about the assigned topic. Here are some ideas for engaging the students:

- Discussion questions
- Group Activity
- Playing a game
- Showing a video and discussing the contents
- Small-scale role playing or simulation (e.g. assign groups to different roles within a pre-formatted rubric)
- Organizing a debate
- Or any other creative activity

Class discussion should be about 30-40 minutes. The most critical part in this activity is to be creative and to find ways to engage the students in the conversation. In addition, your presentation should be effective, concise, and well-organized. Here are some things to consider for a successful presentation:

- Be mindful of time limits. If you are given 20 minutes, do not exceed this time.
- Do not write too much on slides
- Put the main talking points only on the slides. No lengthy definitions or paragraph-long quotes, etc.
- Use visuals, charts, and short videos to make your point.
- If there are any questions from the audience during the presentation, just provide a short response and let the audience know that there will be time in the end to answer the questions in detail.
- Use simple outline and design. It is the content, not the flowers you put on the slides that matter.

****IMPORTANT NOTE:** Since this assignment requires group activity, all students in a group should work together. Any student who does not cooperate with the other group members will receive a warning from me. If this warning does not change the attitude of this student, this student will be dropped from the group and will receive a grade of "0" for this component.

Extra Credit (Maximum 3%): For extra points, (i) you may write a short review (2-3 pages) for an academic paper (1.5%) (ii) Attend the public lecture listed below (1.5%) and write a one page summary about the lecture (1%) or (iii) attend the Middle East Workshop on May 5th (2%).

Academic Honesty & Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Kansas State University has an Honor & Integrity System based on personal integrity which is presumed to be sufficient assurance in academic matters one's work is performed honestly and without unauthorized assistance. Undergraduate and graduate students, by registration, acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Honor & Integrity System. The policies and procedures of the Honor System apply to all full and part-time students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate courses on-campus, off-campus, and via distance learning. A component vital to the Honor & Integrity System is the inclusion of the Honor Pledge which applies to all assignments, examinations, or other course work undertaken by students. The Honor Pledge is implied, whether or not it is stated: "On my honor, as a student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work."

The default in this class is that ALL work will be accomplished individually, UNLESS my permission is given in advance of an assignment/quiz/exam/take-home exam/final. If you are in doubt, please ask. A grade of XF can result from a breach of academic honesty. The F indicates failure in the course; the X indicates the reason is an Honor Pledge violation. For more information, visit the Honor & Integrity System home web page at: <http://www.k-state.edu/honor/>

Any student with a disability that needs a classroom accommodation, access to technology or other assistance in this course should contact Disability Support Services and/or their instructor.

Grading

Letter grades for the course will be assigned along the following scale (Note that I use the *point system*, not the percentages):

- A: 90 points or greater
- B: 80-89.4 points
- C: 70-79.4 points
- D: 60-69.4 points
- F: Below 60 points

Excuses/Late submissions

All excuses needs to be documented prior to the event and within a reasonable time frame. Medical excuses and family emergencies are acceptable pending my approval. If you are late in submitting an assignment without an excuse, this assignment will be penalized by 1/3 of a letter grade.

COURSE OUTLINE

Most readings are available online in the course (Canvas) or can be accessed through K-State Libraries.

Date	Topic	Reading
January 19	Introduction	Syllabus
January 21	Introduction to Islam	John Esposito, Islam and Politics, pp. 1-29
January 26	Introduction to Islamic History	Shephard, Introduction to Islam, ch. 3, 4, 8, 10 (27 pages) Sharif, Chapter 40.
January 28	Introduction to Islamic History	Shephard, Introduction to Islam, ch. 3, 4, 8, 10 (27 pages) Sharif, Chapter 40 Shariati, Man and Islam, http://www.shariati.com/english/human.html (we will discuss this text in class)
February 2	What is Political Islam	Mohammed Ayoob, The Many Faces of Political Islam, Chapter 1
February 4	Exam 1 Short Video	Material from Jan 19-February 2
Extra Credit Opportunity		
Gregory Gause Lecture (Saudi-Iranian cold war), February 8, 1:30-3:00pm Alumni Center		
February 9	Group discussion 1	Sectarianism <i>Recommended</i> 1. Council on foreign Relations Sunni-Shia Divide http://www.cfr.org/peace-

		conflict-and-human-rights/sunni-shia-divide/p33176#/">conflict-and-human-rights/sunni-shia-divide/p33176#/ 2. Nasr, V., 2006. When the Shiites rise. FOREIGN AFFAIRS, 85(4), p.58.
February 11	Muslim Democracy	Nasr, S.V.R., 2005. The Rise of " Muslim Democracy". Journal of Democracy, 16(2), pp.13-27.
February 16	Muslim Democracy	Stepan, A., 2012. Tunisia's transition and the twin tolerations. Journal of Democracy, 23(2), pp.89-103. Bratton, M., 2003. Briefing: Islam, democracy and public opinion in Africa. African Affairs, pp.493-501.
February 18	Islamic States	Feldman, The Rise and Fall of Islamic State, Part 3
February 23	Revolutionary Islam: Iran	Esposito and Voll, Islam and Democracy, Ch. 3
February 25	Exam 2	Material from February 11-February 25.
March 1	Group discussion 2	Is Islam and Democracy Compatible? <i>Recommended:</i> Soroush, Reason, Freedom and Democracy in Islam Filali-Ansary, A., 2003. The sources of enlightened Muslim thought. Journal of Democracy, 14(2), pp.19-33.
March 3	No Class	Princeton Workshop
March 8	Group Discussion 3	Shari'a <i>Recommended:</i> Tariq Ramadan, The Way (Al-Sharia) of Islam Quraishi-Landis, Sharia and Diversity http://www.ispu.org/pdfs/ISPU_Report_ShariaDiversity_Final_web.pdf
March 10	Between Nationalist Resistance and Violence: Hamas and Hezbollah	Ayoob, The Many Faces of Islam Ch. 6
March 14-18 Spring Break: STUDENT HOLIDAY		
March 22	The Muslim Brothers	Mandaville, Chapter 8 Brooke, The Muslim Brotherhood's social outreach after the Egyptian coup http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Research/Files/Reports/2015/07/rethinking-political-islam/Egypt_Brooke-FINALE.pdf?la=en
March 24 March 29	Jihad	Esposito, Unholy War Chapter 2 Gerges, The Far Enemy Introduction Euben and Zaman, Princeton Readings in Islamist Thoughts, Ch. 18
March 31	Exam 3	Material from March 22-March 29
April 5	Group Discussion 4	ISIS <i>Recommended:</i> Brookings Report about ISIS Hashim, Ahmed S. "The Islamic State: From al-Qaeda Affiliate to Caliphate." Middle East Policy 21.4 (2014): 69-83.
April 7	NO CLASS	MPSA meeting
April 12	Guest Lecture 1	TBA
April 14	Islamophobia	Islamophobia: Understanding Anti-Muslim Sentiment in the West http://www.gallup.com/poll/157082/islamophobia-understanding-anti-muslim-sentiment-west.aspx Lecture 17: Moderate Voices Ciftci, Islamophobia and Threat Perceptions, Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs
April 19	Perceptions of Muslims	John Esposito, and Dalia Mogahed, "Battle for Muslims' Hearts and Minds: The Road Not (Yet) Taken", 2007, Middle East Policy, 14(1): 27-41 Pew Report, TBA

April 21	Group Discussion 5	EuroIslam <i>Recommended</i> Robert S. Leiken , "Europe's Angry Muslims", Foreign Affairs, Vol. 84, No. 4, 2005), pp. 120-135) ROY, O., 2015. There Are More French Muslims Working for French Security Than for Al Qaeda. New Perspectives Quarterly, 32(2), pp.48-51. Roy, O., 2003. EuroIslam: The jihad within?. The National Interest, pp.63-73.
April 26	Guest Lecture 2	TBA
April 28	Group Discussion 6	Islamic Ethics: Genetics, Stem-cell research and Islamic justification <i>Recommended</i> Fadel, Hossam E. "Developments in stem cell research and therapeutic cloning: Islamic ethical positions, a review." Bioethics 26.3 (2012): 128-135.
May 3	Exam 4	Material From April 12-April 21
May 5	No Class	Middle East Workshop ***Extra Credit Opportunity***
*Final Exam (Take Home), Due in dropbox on May 7 th , 11:59 pm** (YOU CAN SUBMIT EARLY) *****Term Paper Due, on May 2 nd , 11:59 pm in dropbox**** (YOU CAN SUBMIT EARLY)		

Suggested Project Topics

AKP of Turkey	Islamist Parties and Elections in the Arab Spring	Anti-Americanism in the Muslim World
Hezbollah	ISIS	Islamist Parties in Indonesia
Islamists in Sub-Saharan Africa	Anti-Shari'a Legislation in the US	Political Philosophy of Qutb
Hijab	Post-Islamism	Ennahda
Ali Shariati	Boko Haram	
Political Philosophy of Soroush	Political Philosophy of Mawdudi	Anti-capitalist Muslims (Turkey)