



# Political Islam

## Political Science 452

### Spring 2008

**MWF: 4:00-5:50 am Room 245 SWKT**

**Course Instructor: Dr. Amr Al-Azm 783 SWKT**

**Office Hours: 1:00-2:00 MWF or by appointment.**

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#### **Course Textbooks:**

- Course Reader (Available on Blackboard)
- John L. Esposito, *Islam: the Straight Path*, Third Edition, by, Oxford University Press.
- Graham Fuller, *The Future of Political Islam*. Palgrave (Macmillan) 2003.
- Gilles Kepel, *Jihad: The Trail of Political Islam*, Harvard Univ Press, 2000.
- Beverley Milton Edwards, *Islamic Fundamentalism Since 1945*, Routledge 2005.

#### **Additional Readings Held on Reserve:**

- Karen Armstrong, *Islam A Short History*, 2000 (optional).
- Charles D. Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, Bedford/St. Martin's, Fifth Edition (March 2004) (Very useful for background reading).
- Peter Bergen, *Holy War Inc*, The Free Press, 2001 (Interesting bits and pieces).
- Ahmad Moussalli, *Moderate and Radical Islamic Fundamentalism*, Florida Press, 1999 (optional).

## Course Syllabus:

Welcome to the course on Political Islam. This course will introduce students to the study of Islamic fundamentalism through taking up the question of the relationship of Islam and politics in the contemporary world. It will focus on the political implications of the emergence of Islam as a major world religion and on its use as a force in politics by Islamist groups by examining its rise, teachings, practices, metamorphoses, debates, and polemics.

Key questions that will be addressed by the course include:

What does political Islam mean?

What is the relationship between Islam and political Islam?

Are Muslims anti-democracy?

What ways does Islam manifest itself in politics?

Are there different types of Islamist movements in different parts of the world?

What is the relationship between Islam and the state?

Is Islam compatible with different types of political systems?

Does political Islam equate with terrorism and violence? What variables inspire violence?

Is political Islam on the upsurge or decrease? What variables cause an increase of activity?

The teaching method will combine formal lecturing with discussion of selected texts and assigned readings plus careful attention to the questions and issues raised by participating students. The overall approach will be historical, comparative and explanatory. The class will be provided with a syllabus for the course, lists of required and recommended readings and a selected bibliography of relevant sources and references.

### Reading Assignments:

It is advisable that you read the assignments before coming to class, as this will provide you with the wider picture and place the class lecture and ensuing discussion in context. **Required readings are listed in the lecture schedule. Additional reading requirements are posted regularly on Blackboard.**

### Lunchtime Meetings:

In addition to the regular lectures I also have an optional lunchtime seminar meeting on Wednesdays. Whilst attendance is not mandatory, it's a great opportunity to join in open and informal discussions where anything goes. Dates are advertised in advance.

### Course structure and Assessment:

The course is designed to run over 7 weeks from April 30th – June 13. The course will be assessed through 2 essays and a final exam. The essays carry each 35 marks for a total of 70%. The final exam is worth 20%. The remaining 10% will be given for class participation and attendance. The essays need to be 2500-3000 words approximately. There will be a selection of essay topic to choose from and these will be announced later.

**Essay Writing Guidelines:**

Each paper should begin with a clear statement of thesis or question being addressed in the paper. It should make its argument in a clear and organized way and come to an identifiable conclusion. Correct grammar, usage, and spelling will also be considered in evaluation of the paper. A bibliography is to be included and prepared in a standard bibliographic format. The essays should be 2500-3000 words long. Essays should be emailed to me. **The file name should include the following information: your name essay number and an abbreviated title.** Paper copies may also be handed in.

To write a good essay, always start with an outline and then follow it through. If you are unsure bring your outline to me. I would be happy to discuss it with you and provide feedback. Always try to submit your essays on time. This ensures a timely response and a chance for corrections and rewrites where appropriate. So if you want a good mark follow these simple guidelines.

***Caveat Emptor!*** A special warning on Wikipedia ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)). This resource is in a constant state of flux. Articles are written by anyone who wants to write about the subject, but they can be altered by anyone else. Even a student in this class could add an article, and then find it changed sometime later. If someone does not have the knowledge/savvy to create his/her own web site, that person can just add an article to Wikipedia. So, if you look at this resource, be doubly sure you double-check the data you retrieve *Caveat emptor* (Buyer Beware I will dock you if you get it wrong).

**For Further Information See Student Responsibilities (Separate Sheet)**

<b>The TA for the class is: None Assigned</b>
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**Honour Code Standards**

In keeping with the principles of the BYU Honour Code, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic work. Academic honesty means, most fundamentally, that any work you present as your own must in fact **be** your own work and not that of another. Writing submitted for credit at BYU must consist of the student's own ideas presented in sentences and paragraphs of his or her own construction. The work of other writers or speakers may be included when appropriate (as in a research paper or book review), but such material must support the student's own work (not substitute for it) and must be clearly identified by appropriate introduction and punctuation and by footnoting or other standard referencing.

The substitution of another person's work for the student's own or the inclusion of another person's work without adequate acknowledgment (whether done intentionally or not) is known as plagiarism. It is a violation of academic, ethical, and legal standards and may result in a failing grade in the course and additional disciplinary action by the university. See <http://www.byu.edu/honorcode> for specific examples of intentional, inadvertent plagiarism, and fabrication, falsification. Because of the seriousness of the possible consequences, students who wonder if their papers are within these guidelines should visit the Writing Lab or consult a

faculty member who specializes in the teaching of writing or who specializes in the subject discussed in the paper. Useful books to consult on the topic include the current Harbrace College Handbook, the MLA Handbook, and James D. Lester's Writing Research Papers.

Students are also expected to adhere to the Dress and Grooming Standards. Adherence demonstrates respect for yourself and others and ensures an effective learning and working environment. It is the university's expectation, and my own expectation in class, that each student will abide by all Honour Code standards. Please call the Honour Code Office at 422-2847 if you have questions about those standards.

### **Preventing Sexual Discrimination or Harassment**

Sexual discrimination or harassment (including student-to-student harassment) is prohibited both by the law and by Brigham Young University policy. If you feel you are being subjected to sexual discrimination or harassment, please bring your concerns to the professor. Alternatively, you may lodge a complaint with the Equal Employment Office (D-240C ASB) or with the Honour Code Office (4440).

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you have a disability that may affect your performance in this course, you should get in touch with the office of Services for Students with Disabilities (1520 WSC). This office can evaluate your disability and assist the professor in arranging for reasonable accommodations.

## SPRING 2008 LECTURE SCHEDULE

### April

#### **Week 1: Introduction: Setting the Stage and Historical Background**

**Readings:** Reader, section 1; Esposito Chapters 1 and 2, Keppel Introduction, Armstrong Chapter 4 (Optional)

Wed: 30

### May

Fri : 1

#### **Week 2: Challenge of the West 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Revivalism, Response and Adaptation: Modernists and Neo-revivalists**

**Readings:** : Reader, section 2, Esposito 115-124, Armstrong 121-133 (Optional).

Mon: 5

Wed: 7 Reader, section 3; Esposito 125-157, Donahue 13-23, Fuller Chapter 1; Milton Edwards Chapter 1

Fri : 9

#### **Week 3: Political Islam**

**Readings:** Reader Section 4; Esposito Chapter 5; Fuller Chapters 2 and 3; Milton-Edwards Chapters 2 and 3; Moussalli Introduction and Chapter 1.

Mon: 12

Wed: 14 **Film Documentary: Power of Nightmares, the rise of the politics of fear**

Fri : 16 **Power of Nightmares (Continued)**

#### **Week 4: Jihad and Jihadist Islam: The Iranian Revolution; Egypt**

**Readings:** Reader Iran section; Kepel Chapter 5, Pages 81-88, Chapter 13; Fuller Chapter 6

Mon: 19

Wed: 21

Fri : 23 **Essay 1 Due (Critique of the Power of Nightmares)**

#### **Week 5: Jihad and Jihadist Islam: Al-Qaeda , Afganistan and Beyond.**

**Readings:** Reader section 5 and 6; Milton-Edwards Chapter 5 and 6; Fuller Chapter 5; Kepel 136-150, Chapters 9 and 13, Al-Zayat, The Road to Al-Qaeda; Bergen: Prologue, After word, Chapters 1-3.

Mon: **No Class**

Wed: 28

Fri : 30

### June

#### **Week 6: Political Islam and the Arab Israeli Conflict**

**Readings:** Reader section 8; Kepel 150-158 and Chapter14; Film: Occupation 101

Mon: 2 Film: Occupation 101

Wed: 4 Hamas

Fri : 6 Hizballa

#### **Week 7: Moderate Islam: The Turkish Model and the Future of Political Islam**

**Readings:** Reader section 9; Kepel chapter 15; Al-Azm, Is Islam Secularisable?, Al-Azm Islam

and Secular Humanism Fuller Chapter 10

Mon: 9 **Essay 2 Due**

Wed: 11

Fri : 13 **Final Exam**