

Political Science S4429D
Summer 2005
Thurs. 6:15-9:25 p.m.
717 International Affairs Bldg.
Office Hours: Thurs 2-3 pm and by appointment

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ISLAM AND POLITICS

Much of the field of comparative politics is subdivided by geographic area (e.g., Asia and Latin America), or political economy (e.g., advanced industrial countries and developing countries). The premise of such categorization is that sufficient commonalities cut across the countries in each of these categories to justify studying them as a group. This course takes a somewhat different approach in that it groups together a geographically, politically, economically and even culturally diverse group of countries on the basis of a common religion—Islam. The focus of this course is on comparing similarities and differences in how Muslims conceive of and participate in politics.

The course begins with a discussion of the Islamic religious doctrine and the historical expansion of the practice of Islam from the Arabian Peninsula to different cultural contexts, leading to differences from the political model set out by the Prophet Muhammad. The remainder of the course will examine different forms of political institutions governing Muslims and varying forms of political activism by Muslims. Throughout the semester, we will discuss these issues with Muslims by visiting Muslim communities in New York City and through a panel at the end of semester composed of Muslims who will discuss their experiences as a Muslim minority in the United States post-9/11.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A. Class Participation (25%): Your regular and informed participation in class is essential to this course. Your grade will reflect your participation to in-class discussions as well as contributions to an on-line [bulletin board](#). Before each session, you will be expected to post comments (a paragraph or two) on specific questions that are listed in the syllabus, which we will then discuss in class.

B. Participation in Meetings with Muslims in New York City (10%): One of the exciting things about studying Islam and politics in New York City is the opportunity it affords you to discuss the topic with Muslims from a variety of socio-economic, cultural and religious (Sunni, Shi'ite, and Sufi) backgrounds. To take advantage of these opportunities and to encourage students to use interviews and oral histories as primary sources in their research, we will be meeting with different Muslim groups over the course of the semester. Students are expected to attend and participate in these group discussions. If a student is unable to make a session, she will be required to set up a meeting with another Muslim group (preferably one from the culture on which she is writing her research paper), attend an activity organized by or about Muslims in New York City, or interview a Muslim about his/her views on Islam and politics.

C. Map quiz (5%): Attached to the syllabus is a copy of a political map of the world that identifies countries that have a Muslim majority. There will be a map quiz in class where you will be asked to identify these countries. The goal of this exercise is to familiarize you with the political geography of Muslim countries that will aid in your understanding of the readings and class discussion.

D. Research Paper: Students are required to write a research paper (18-20 pages) for this course that incorporates both primary and secondary sources. This paper is intended to give students an opportunity

to focus their research on a topic of interest in a particular country (e.g., democratization and the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood, or the status of Muslim women under President Bhutto of Pakistan). I encourage students to choose a topic dealing with Muslims in New York City or one that would permit them to include interviews with Muslims on politics in their countries of origin (e.g., a Pakistani immigrant's view of the Kashmir conflict). Students must submit a one-page proposal identifying the country they will be studying and their topic of interest along with an initial bibliography by June 2.

* **Research Design and Annotated Bibliography** (10%): In preparation for writing the research paper, students are expected to submit a research design and an annotated bibliography by June 16. The research design should clearly state their hypothesis, summarize the existing literature on the topic, and describe their approach to the research question. Included with their research design should be an outline with the major subheadings of their paper and an annotated bibliography consisting of a short paragraph that evaluates the publication by summarizing its thesis and describing its contribution to their research. For further information, see the memorandum on researching and writing a research paper available at: http://www.columbia.edu/~ljb34/islam_and_pol/memo.html

* **Research Paper of Colloquium Paper** (50%): The research paper must be submitted by July 2. The grade on late papers will be automatically lowered by 1/3 of a grade for each day past the due date, with the exception of a health or family emergency.

INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM AND POLITICS

May 24: Islamic Theological Doctrine and The Historical Expansion of Islam

D. Laitin. 1978. "Religion, Political Culture, and the Weberian Tradition," *World Politics*. 563-592.

Background Reading:

J. Esposito. 2004. *Islam: the Straight Path*.

May 26: Western Perceptions and Representations of Islam: From Orientalism to the Islamic Threat

COMMENTARY: Is Huntington's *Clash of Civilizations* an "Orientalist" Perspective?

S. Huntington. 1993. "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs*. 72:3, 22-50.

E. Said. 1979. "Introduction," *Orientalism*. 1-30.

S. Hunter. 1998. *The Future of Islam and the West*. Ch 2, 69-115.

***** Map Quiz In Class *****

May 31: Islamic States and Secular States with Muslim Majorities

COMMENTARY: What is an Islamic state? What is political role of Islam in a Muslim society with a secular state?

D. Champion. 2003. *The Paradoxical Kingdom: Saudi Arabia and Momentum of Reform*. 20-75.

N. Keddie. 2003. *Modern Iran: Roots and Results of Revolution*. 214-284.

June 2: Visit to the Murid *Daru Salam* in Harlem

- D. Cruise O'Brien. 2003. "Supping with the Devil: The Murid Brotherhood and the Senegalese State, 1967-1988," *Symbolic Contradictions*, 32-48.
- L. Villalon. 2004. "Islamism in West Africa: Senegal," *African Studies Review*. 47:2, 61-71.

June 7: Muslims Struggling for a State

COMMENTARY: What is the role of religion in the Palestinian and Kurdish struggles for a State?

Film: "Justice and Jihad," D. Lasseur (producer), 2002.

- M. Gunter. 2004. "The Kurdish Question in Perspective," 166:4, 197-205.
- S. Mishal and A. Sela. 2000. *The Palestinian Hamas*. Chapters 1-2.

Background Reading:

- D. Gerner. 1994. *One land, two peoples: The Conflict over Palestine*. 1-102.
- M. Ignatieff. 1994. *Blood and Belonging*. Chapter on Kurds.

June 9: Political Islam and Democratization

COMMENTARY: Are democratization and the resurgence of Islam contradictory forces?

- A. Stepan and G. B. Robertson. 2003. "An 'Arab' More Than a 'Muslim' Electoral Gap," *Journal of Democracy*, 14:3, 30-44.
- B. Ghalioun and P. J. Costopolous. 2004. "The Persistence of Arab Authoritarianism," *Journal of Democracy*, 15:4, 126-32.
- S. A. Lakoff, "The Reality of Muslim Exceptionalism," *Journal of Democracy*, 15:4, 133-9.
- A. Stepan and G. B. Robertson. 2004. "Arab, Not Muslim, Exceptionalism," *Journal of Democracy*, 15:4, 140-6.

Background Reading:

- L. Diamond. 2005. "Building Democracy after Conflict: Lessons from Iraq," *Journal of Democracy*, 16:1, 9-23.

June 14: Muslims Operating Outside the Nation-State Model

COMMENTARY: What is the role of religion "Islamic Terrorism"?

- J. Esposito. 2002. *Unholy War: Terror in the Name of Islam*.
- D. Byman. 2003. "Al-Qaeda as an Adversary: Do we understand the enemy?" *World Politics* 56.1: 139-163.

June 16: Meeting with UN Representatives of the Organization of the Islamic Conference
"Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on combating International

Terrorism,” published in *International terrorism agreements : documents and commentary* (2004)

June 21: Islam and Gender Politics

COMMENTARY: Is the status of women in your research country attributable to their Muslim identity?

J.N. Ezeilo and A.A. Afolabi. 2003. *Shari'a and Women's Human Rights in Nigeria*. Chs. 1-2.

J. Goodman. 2003. “Muslims, the First Feminists,” *The Price of Honor*.

Journal Article or Chapter on Your Research Country

June 23: Muslims as a Political Minority

COMMENTARY: How does the religious identity of Muslims in post 9/11 America influence their political incorporation?

Council on American-Islamic Relations. 2004. “Unpatriotic Acts: The Status of Muslim Civil Rights in the US.”

In Y. Haddad. 2002. *Muslims in the West: From Sojourners to Citizens*.

J. Smith. “Introduction, 3-18.

M. Nimer. “Muslims in American Public Life,” 169-86.

K. Moore. “Representation of Islam in the Language of Law: Recent US Cases,” 187-204.

June 28: Panel on Being Muslim in America Post-911 at the 96th Street Mosque

June 30: Presentation of Papers

***** FINAL PAPER DUE : July 2 *****

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