“Contrary to much of the literature on the subject, it is not possible to talk about Islam and democracy in general but only about Muslims living and theorizing under specific historical circumstances.”


**Course Objectives:** The Islamic revival is one of the most important developments of the twentieth century. This class is motivated by a set of interlocking questions designed to understand the political aspects of the revival by focusing on Islamist movements in the Middle East, North Africa, and Southeast Asia. What are their intellectual origins? How should we understand their relationship to colonialism, theology, nationalism, democracy, liberalism, economic development, and women and gender? Why do Islamist movements mobilize at different times, with different goals, and employing different strategies? Why and in what ways have these movements changed over time? We will explore these questions by examining a broad range of movements historically and in comparative perspective while drawing on scholarship from political science, Islamic studies, sociology, anthropology, and history. Rather than using a static definition of “political Islam” or “Islamist,” we will investigate the language, categories, and arguments of both prominent Islamists and everyday activists. By the end of the course students should possess an empirically grounded understanding of contemporary Islamist movements as well as the analytical tools necessary to explain their behavior.

**Course Requirements:**

- **Class participation (10%)** Students are expected to attend every lecture and participate in discussions. It is essential that you complete the required readings in advance of each session and come to class ready to engage with the material and with your classmates.

- **Response Papers (15%)** Each student is required to write three short (2 full pages, double-spaced, 1 inch margins, .doc format) response papers to the readings over the course of the semester. Please turn electronic copies into the course dropbox on Learn@UW by 9pm on the evening prior to class. Although students have discretion on which specific readings they respond to, each student is expected to write at least one essay during Parts II and III of the course. You will sign up for these during the second class of the semester. To receive full credit, each response paper should be a critical analysis of the reading and not a summary.

- **Midterms (20% each)** In-class on **February 11** and **March 9**.

- **Final Exam (35%)** The final exam is a take-home essay, 10-12 pages in length, due in my mailbox before **May 11 at 4:45pm**. The exam will be handed out at the end of class on May 6. In lieu of the exam, students may opt to write a 20-25 page research paper. Students who take
this option are required to discuss their topic with me (during office hours) before **February 18** and submit an abstract and preliminary list of sources before **April 1**.

**Special Needs:** If you have any special needs or circumstances, such as a learning disability or health concern, please do not hesitate to speak with me and we can discuss suitable accommodations and assistance.

**Academic Misconduct:** Plagiarism and cheating are serious offences and will be punished in accordance UW’s academic misconduct policies: [http://students.wisc.edu/saja/pdf/UWS14.pdf](http://students.wisc.edu/saja/pdf/UWS14.pdf).

**Grading scale**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>88-92</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83-87</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
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</tbody>
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**Electronic communications in class:** Please close all email accounts, cell phones, pagers, instant messaging programs, homing pigeons, and any other communication devices for the duration of class. These are serious distractions to the instructor and your fellow students.

**Other Important Notice:** Make up examinations will be granted only in limited cases. I will make arrangements in the event of: genuine family emergencies, travel away from Madison due to university obligations (athletic or academic with two weeks advance notice), or severe illness or injury. If you are ill or injured, you will need proper documentation from a doctor.

**Required Texts:**


**Recommended:**


**Part I: Concepts and Methods**

**January 19 (W)**

Introduction: Why Study Political Islam?
January 21 (F) Our Framework

January 24 (M) Key Concepts
• Mandaville, Introduction, 1-23.

January 26 (W) Streams and States
• Mandaville, Chapter 2: Islam and Politics, 24-40.

Recommended:

Part II: Cases

January 28 (F) The Ottoman Empire
• Mandaville, Chapter 2: Islam and Politics, 40-44.

January 31 (M) Islamic Revival and Reform
• Mandaville, Chapter 2: Islam and Politics, 44-48.

February 2 (W)

February 4 (F) Egypt: The Origins of Modern Islamist Movements
• Euben and Zaman, Chapter 2: Hasan Al-Banna, 49-78.

February 7 (M)
• Mandaville, Chapter 3: State Formation and the Making of Islamism, 49-95.
• Euben and Zaman, Chapter 5: Sayyid Qutb, 129-152.

Recommended:

**February 9 (W)**

Recommended:

**February 11 (F) Midterm Exam 1**

**February 14 (M) Turkey: Islamism in the Vernacular**
• White, Chapter 1: The Political Economy of Culture, 29-76.

**February 16 (W)**
• White, Chapter 2: Religion and Politics in Everyday, 77-102.

**February 18 (F)**
• White, Ch. 6: Civil Society: In Whose Service? 178-121.

Recommended:

**February 21 (M) Iran: Islamism from Above**
• Mandaville, Chapter 5: Islam as the System, 147-197.

**February 23 (W)**
• Euben and Zaman, Chapter 6: Ruhollah Khomeini, 163-180.

**February 25 (F)**

**February 28 (M) Indonesia: Political Islam from the Periphery**

**March 2 (W) Guest Lecture (Tentative): Ben Smith**

Recommended:

**March 4 (F)**

Recommended:

**March 7 (M) Review**
**March 9 (W) Midterm Exam 2**
**March 11 (F) Film Screening**

*** SPRING BREAK! March 12-20 ***

**March 21 (M) Jordan: Islamism and State Power**
• Wiktorowicz, Introduction and Ch. 1: The Management of Collective Action, 1-44.

**March 23 (W)**
• Wiktorowicz, Ch. 2: State Power and the Regulation of Islam, 45-82.

**March 25 (F)**
• Wiktorowicz, Ch. 3: Islamic Social Movements and the Muslim Brotherhood, 83-110.

**March 28 (M) Palestine: Islamism in Weak and Failed States**  
• Mandaville, Chapter 6: Islam for Lack of a System, 198-222.  
• Mishal and Sela, Chapter 1: Social Roots and Institutional Development, 13-26; Appendix Two: 176-199.

**March 30 (W)**  
• Mishal and Sela, Chapter 2: Dogmas and Dilemmas, 27-48; Chapter 3: Controlled Violence, 49-82.

**April 1 (F)**  
• Mishal and Sela, Chapter 4: Coexistence Within Conflict, 83-112.  

**April 4 (M) A Road to Mecca: The Journey of Muhammad Asad (film)**

**April 6 (W) A Road to Mecca: The Journey of Muhammad Asad (film)**  

**April 8 (F) Radical Islamism: Al-Qaeda**  
• Mandaville, Chapter 7: Radical Islamism and Jihad Beyond the Nation-State, 237-265.  
• Euben and Zaman, Chapter 18: Usama bin Laden, 425-459.

**April 11 (M)**  

**April 13 (W) Guest Lecture on Sudan (Tentative): Geraldine O’Mahony**  
• Mandaville, 196-197.  
• Additional Readings TBD.

**April 15 (F) Non-Violent Radicals: Hizb ut-Tahrir**  
• Mandaville, Chapter 7: Radical Islamism and Jihad Beyond the Nation-State, 265-271.  

Recommended:

Part III: Themes

April 18 (M) Islamist Women and Gender
• Euban and Zaman, Chapter 11: Zaynab Al-Ghazali, 275-301.

April 20 (W) Guest Lecture: Shahirah Mahmood

April 22 (F)

Recommended:

April 25 (M) Democracy
• Euban and Zaman, Chapter 9: Yusuf Al-Qaradawi, 224-245.

April 27 (W) Ethics

Recommended:

**April 29 (F) US Foreign Policy**
• M. Steven Fish et al. 2010. Islam and Large-Scale Political Violence: Is There a Connection? *Comparative Political Studies* Vol. 43, No. 11: 1327-1362. 30-5030-50. [Skim]

**May 2 (M)**

**May 4 (W) Wrapping Up: Beyond Islamism?**
• Mandaville, Chapter 10: Beyond Islamism, 332-351.

Recommended:

**May 6 (F) Review**

*** Final Exam Questions Distributed After Class May 6 ***
Due May 11, 4:45pm