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Spring 2008
IR 508 - Islamic Political Movements and U.S. Policy

Course Outline

This course studies the origin and impact of Islamic political movements and their intersection with U.S. foreign policy. It examines the ideologies of various Islamic revivalist movements; their role during and after the cold war; their view of the U.S. and western civilization, and how they have contributed to the rise of terrorism.

“...the United States and the West have little useful context in which to try to understand Osama bin Laden”

Anonymous. Through Our Enemies' Eyes. 2003

Students are expected to read *The New York Times* daily to be able to follow both international and domestic developments related to the themes of the course. We will be discussing relevant events in class and sections on a regular basis so it is important for you to be current on what is happening around you. Access to the full daily edition of the *Times* is available on-line. You may also subscribe, or view hard-copy versions at Mugar library.

Grading Distribution:

Class participation	25 %
Mid-term	30%
Final Exam/Term paper	45%

Special Remarks:

Students are expected to attend all classes except in case of a valid excuse (e.g. personal illness), in which case please e-mail me.

Boston University's Code of Academic Conduct applies. Please make sure you are familiar with it, especially provisions relating to plagiarism.

Class Schedule:

Week One Introduction to Islamic Revivalism; Islamic revivalism at end of the 19th century: Afghani, Abduh; Sayyid Ahmed's modernism (Zohair Husain, pp 1-61; Armstrong pp 115-191; Lewis pp 1-160)

Week Two Major Muslim political influences of the 20th century: Islamists (Al-Banna,

Maududi, Sayyid Qutb, Al-Nabhani, Indonesia's Nahdatul Ulema); Secularists (Ataturk, secular nationalists); Traditionalists (Tableeghi Jamaat, Muhammadiyah) and Modernists (Zohair Husain pp 62-157; Keppel, Chapters 1 & 4)

- Week Three Continued... Major Muslim political influences of the 20th century: Islamists (Al-Banna, Maududi, Sayyid Qutb, Al-Nabhani, Indonesia's Nahdatul Ulema); Secularists (Ataturk, secular nationalists); Traditionalists (Tableeghi Jamaat, Muhammadiyah) and Modernists (Zohair Husain pp 62-157; Keppel, Chapters 1 & 4; articles to be distributed)
- Week Four Jinnah and the Pakistan Movement; World's First Islamic Republic; Impact on Muslim World (Haqqani Introduction; Nasr, Chapters 1-47; articles to be distributed)
- Week Five Islamic Revivalists as America's Cold War Allies: Role of Saudi Arabia; Muslim World Congress and Muslim World League; Central Asia and Caucasus; Chinese Muslims (Zohair Husain, pp 159-219; Mahmood Mamdani, Chapter 2; articles to be distributed)
- Week Six Iranian Revolution and its reverberations, Morocco to Indonesia (Zohair Husain pp 220-254; Keppel, Chapter 5; Kinzer Chapter ___)
- Week Seven Muslim liberation movements: Palestine, Kashmir, Mindanao (readings to be given)
- Week Eight The anti-Soviet Jihad in Afghanistan; 'Arab Afghans'; Azzam and Global Jihad (Zohair Husain, pp 255-299; Keppel, Chapter 6; Ahmed Rashid)
- Week Nine Al-Qaeda; Terrorism 9/11; the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq (Peter Bergen, articles to be distributed)
- Week Ten The Future of Islamic Revivalism: Waning or on the rise. (Keppel, Feldman)
- Week Eleven Wrap Up: 'Why do They Hate Us?' Policy or Ideology (Zohair Husain pp 301-336)

Required Readings:

1. Karen Armstrong, Islam – A Short History (Modern Library, 2000)
2. Steve Coll, Ghost wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan and Bin Laden from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001 (Penguin, 2004)

3. Anonymous. Through our Enemies Eyes. Osama Bin Laden, Radical Islam and the Future of America. (Brassey's Inc. 2003)
4. Bernard Lewis, What Went Wrong? – The Clash Between Islam and Modernity in the Middle East (Perennial, 2003)
5. Mir Zohair Husain. Global Islamic Politics 2nd Edition (Longman Publishers. 2003)
6. Mahmood Mamdani, Good Muslim, Bad Muslim : America, the Cold War, and the Roots of Terror (Pantheon, 2004)
7. Gilles Kepel, Jihad – The Trail of Political Islam (Belknap Press, 2003)

Recommended Readings:

1. Husain Haqqani, Pakistan: Between Mosque and Military (Washington DC, Carnegie, 2004)
2. Vali Nasr, Islamic Leviathan –Islam and the Making of State Power (Oxford, 2001)
3. Noah Feldman, After Jihad (Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2003)
4. Stephen Kinzer. All the Shah's Men: An American Coup and the Roots of Middle East Terror. (Wiley. 2003)

Office Hours:

Mondays and Wednesdays

10 am to 11 am

3pm to 4 pm

Other days, by appointment