Introduction: This graduate-level seminar (also open to undergrads prepared to conduct graduate-level research), offers a focused exploration of the role of Islam in contemporary Middle East political systems and societies. Considerable attention is devoted to the intellectual origins, history and goals of leading Islamist movements, particularly those that aspire to or have achieved significant political influence. Significant attention is given to how these groups have mobilized support among Muslims, employed Islamic symbols, rituals and practices, and adapted to changing political, social and economic contexts. The cases examined include but are not limited to Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, and Syria.

Academic integrity: Please read the Boston University Academic Conduct Code. Handing in someone else's work or ideas as your own (even if you worked on it together as a group) constitutes plagiarism, as does using someone's ideas without attribution. You must give a citation when you use an author's ideas in your paper, even if you do not quote the text word-for-word. I will go over in class the correct procedures for quoting and referencing the work of other authors. If you miss that class or if you have any questions, please ask. Any infraction MUST be reported to the Dean for resolution by the Academic Conduct Committee. Be informed and be careful.

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Grades and Evaluation:

- Research Paper, 35 points (October 1, October 15 and December 12 are deadlines for topic, annotated bibliography and the complete paper, respectively; five points for topic, five for bibliography and 25 for final paper).
- Participation, 10 points.
- Assigned discussion of readings, 5 points.
- Exam 1, 10 points.
- Exam 2, 10 points.
- Exam 3, 20 points.
- Paper presentation, 10 points.

N.B., unexcused late papers will be penalized one half letter grade per weekday.

Grade scale: A (95% or above), A- (92% or above); B+ (88% or above); B (85% or above), B- (82% or above), C+ (78% or above), C (75% or above), C- (72% or above), D (65% or above).

Class attendance:
Unexcused absences will be noted, and unexcused absences reduce the course participation grade. If you have a legitimate reason to miss class, please observe the courtesy of notifying your professor. Please plan to arrive for class on time and please minimize early departures. No retakes of examinations will be offered unless there is a documented medical excuse, a family emergency, or comparable exigent circumstances.

Required Reading or Reference (most are available from BU bookstore, but you may find more reasonably priced used copies or free downloads on the web):


Background Reading:
If you are unfamiliar with the formation of Islam, Muslim rituals and other basics of the faith, then you should read a reliable introduction, for example:

- Denny, Frederick, *Islam and the Muslim Community* (Waveland, 2002).

Web resources:
There are many fine web sites, but remember there is often no independent authentication of claims and “facts” offered on the web. You, as the scholar, are responsible for insuring that the material that you use...
from the web in your research papers is in fact accurate. If you are looking for research material or background information about the Middle East on the web, a very good place to start is the web site of the Gulf/2000 project, which is sponsored by Columbia. The address is:  http://gulf2000.columbia.edu

Lecture topics and readings:

WEEK ONE:  September 3, No class scheduled

WEEK TWO:  September 10, Course orientation and themes; READ:  Rahnema, ed., pp. ix-lxxxiii.

WEEK THREE:  September 17, Islamic Society and the Question of Modernization; READ: Rahnema, pp. 1-63 (chaps. 1-3); Zubaida, “Is there a Muslim Society?” (reserve).

WEEK FOUR:  September 24, Reading Week (no class meeting); READ: Rahnema, pp. 125-83 (chaps 6-7); Qutb, pp. 2-82; Moussalli in Norton, ed., Civil Society in the Middle East, vol. 1 (reserve), pp. 77-119.
Recommended: Michael Cook, pp. 505-60.

WEEK FIVE:  October 1, The Muslim Brotherhood; READ: Pargeter, all, Norton, “Thwarted Democracy” (reserve)

Research topic due.

WEEK SIX:  October 9 (Tuesday), Exam 1 (readings through October 9); The Turkish model (Prof. J.B. White); READ: White, Jenny B., Islamist Mobilization in Turkey (reserve); and selection from her new book (TBP).


Research bibliography due.

WEEK EIGHT:  Oct.22 , The Arab Shi’a: Lebanon; READ: Deeb (all); Rahnema ed., pp. 184-207 (chap. 8); Norton, The Role of Hezbollah in Lebanese Domestic Politics.


WEEK TEN:  November 5, Exam 2 (readings through October 29); The Revival of 2011 and its Implications; READ: Ashraf El Sherif, “Islamism After the Arab Spring” (reserve); Mulderig, M. C., (2011). “Adulthood Denied: Youth Dissatisfaction and the Arab Spring” Boston, Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future at Boston University.

WEEK ELEVEN:  November 12, Transnational Currents; READ: Francois Burgat, “The Islamist Field between National Specificity and Transnationalization,” in Islamism in The Shadow Of Al-Qaeda, Texas:

WEEK TWELVE: November 19, Exam 3 (essay), REVIEW ALL READINGS AND CLASS NOTES

WEEK THIRTEEN: Nov. 26, Presentations

WEEK FOURTEEN: December 3, Presentations

WEEK FIFTEEN: December 10, Presentations and Course wrap-up

December 12, Research Paper due

Selected Bibliography:

Abdo, Geneive, No God but God (Oxford Univ. Press, 2000).

_________ and Jonathan Lyons, Answering Only to God: The Dangerous Road to Democracy in Iran (New York: Henry Holt, 2003).

Abrahamian, Ervand, Iran Between Two Revolutions (Princeton University Press, 1982).


Al-e-Ahmad, Jalal, Gharbzadegi (Lexington, KY.: Mazda, 1982).


____________, *Europe and the Middle East* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1980).


Huntington, Samuel P., "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* 72, no. 3 (Summer 1993): 22-49. [Reserve]


JC49.L48.1988

__________, *The Muslim Discovery of Europe* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1982).


*Middle East Journal*, theme issue on civil society and democratization in the Middle East, Spring 1993.


Al-Sadr, Muhammad Baqir, *Principles of Jurisprudence: According to Shi'i Law*


Zaman, Muhammad Qasim, *The Ulama in Contemporary Islam: Custodians of Change*
