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Spring 2014
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 entire spectrum of Islamist movements and their ideological beliefs, their key leaders and their organizational setups. Certain key events like the Iranian Revolution, the anti-Soviet Afghan jihad and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are studied in detail. The policies adopted by various American governments are also analyzed.

Reading requirements

The reading requirements for this course include a combination of books, article and online resources.

Key readings have been divided into required and recommended. Required readings are those all students are expected to read whereas recommended readings are those which would help a deeper understanding of the subject. Students are expected to either purchase or loan the required readings. The recommended readings will be posted on the course website.

Students are required to check the course website as throughout the course of the semester articles will be posted on the website. Articles and reports from various think tanks and research organizations on topics under discussion will either be posted online or handout in class.

Thorough reading of a quality daily such as *The New York Times* and weekly (such as *The Economist* or *Time*) is mandatory. Access to the full daily edition of *The New York Times* is available on-line. You may also subscribe, or view hard-copy versions at Mugar library.

Grading Distribution:

Class participation 30 %

For undergraduates only

Mid-Term 30% **(Date: March 20, 2014)**

Final Examination 40%

For graduates only

Final Paper

70%

(Please finalize the topic of your final paper by March 20, 2014)

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.

Academic Misconduct: All class members are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty and integrity. You are expected to provide citations in papers for all quotations, paraphrases, and ideas taken from any source other than your own original thoughts. Boston University has very strict standards for intellectual integrity, and punishment for plagiarism is severe, and can include permanent expulsion from the university. For more on the definition of plagiarism and the standards to which you will be held, see the CAS Academic Conduct Code, available at <http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/> or the GRS Academic Conduct Code: <http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/graduate/forms-policies-procedures/academic-discipline-procedures/>

Class Schedule:

Week One (January 16, 21)

Introduction & History

Required

Husain Haqqani. "Manipulated Outrage and Misplaced Fury" Wall Street Journal, September 2012 (posted online)

Husain Haqqani. "Muslim Rage is about Politics not Religion" Newsweek/Daily Beast, October 2012 (posted online)

Karen Armstrong. "The Curse of the Infidel" (posted online)

Recommended

Political Islam in Middle East (Posted on course website)

Political Islam in South Asia (Posted on course website)

Islam: A Primer (CRS) (posted online)

Weeks Two & Three (Jan 23, 28, 30, Feb 6)

Islamic revivalism at end of the 19th century: Afghani, Abduh; Sayyid Ahmed's modernism;
Major Muslim political influences of the 20th century: Secularists (Ataturk, secular nationalists) and
Modernists

Required

Zohair Husain, pp 1-70

Husain Haqqani. Islam's Medieval Outposts (posted online)

Recommended

Karen Armstrong. Muslims and the West (posted online)

Time Magazine article from 1953 on Turkey & Ataturk (posted online)

Farish Noor. New Voices of Islam (posted online)

February 4, 2014: Guest Lecture

Weeks Four & Five (Feb 11, 13, 18, 20)

Major Muslim political influences of the 20th century: Traditionalists (Tableeghi Jamaat,
Muhammadiyah) and Revivalists (Al-Banna, Maududi, Sayyid Qutb, Al-Nabhani, Indonesia's
Nahdatul Ulama)

Required

Zohair Husain, pp 71-157

Recommended

Bernard Lewis. Crisis of Islam (posted online)

John Calvert. Mythic Foundations of Radical Islam (posted online)

Weeks Six and Seven (Feb 25, 27, March 4, 6)

Islamic Revivalists as America's Cold War Allies: Role of Saudi Arabia; Muslim World Congress
and Muslim World League

Required

Zohair Husain, pp 159-219

Husain Haqqani. American Mongols (posted online)

Recommended

Mahmood Mamdani, Chapter 2 (posted online)

Week Eight (March 18)

Iranian Revolution and its reverberations, Morocco to Indonesia

Required

Zohair Husain pp 220-254

Recommended

Keppel, Chapter 5

Mid term Exam March 20

Graduate students please finalize paper topic by March 20

Guest Lecture (March 25, 27)

Week Nine (April 1,3)

Muslim liberation movements: Palestine, Kashmir, Mindanao

Required

Syed Serajul Islam. Islamic Independence Movements in Patani of Thailand and Mindanao of the Philippines (Asian Survey, Vol 28, No 5, 1998) (posted online)

Sa'iad AlGhazali. Islamic movement versus National Liberation (Journal of Palestine Studies, Vol 17, No 2, 1988) (posted online)

Week Ten (April 8, 10)

The anti-Soviet Jihad in Afghanistan; 'Arab Afghans'; Azzam and Global Jihad

Required

Zohair Husain, pp 255-299

Recommended

Ahmed Rashid 'Taliban' 1999, Foreign Affairs (posted online)

Marvin Weinbaum. "Afghanistan and its Neighbors" USIP Special Report, 2006

Week Eleven (April 15, 17)

Al-Qaeda; Terrorism 9/11; the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq

Required

Husain Haqqani. Ideologies of South Asian Islamist Groups (posted online)

Monograph on Ayman Zawahiri (posted online)

Ziauddin Sardar. Struggle for Islam's Soul (posted online)

Weeks Twelve & Thirteen (April 22, 24, 29, May 1)

The Future of Islamic Revivalism: Waning or on the rise

Required

Gilles Keppel Jihad (posted online)

Khaled Abou El Fadl. Islam and Democracy (posted online)

Daniel Brumberg. Islam is not the Solution or the Problem (posted online)

Required Readings:

1. Mir Zohair Husain. Global Islamic Politics (Pearson. New York. 2003)
2. Bernard Lewis, What Went Wrong? – The Clash Between Islam and Modernity in the Middle East (Perennial, 2003)

Recommended Readings:

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

Office Hours:

Tuesday/Thursday: 1pm to 3pm

Wednesday: 2pm to 4pm

Other days, by appointment via email