

## PSCI4620/PSCI 8626/INT4140-010

### Islam and Politics

Spring 2018

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course introduces the students to the interaction between religion and politics in the Muslim world. The course starts with a historical analysis outlining the conditions that shape the formation of political Islamic ideologies and movements in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century as a response to Western colonialism. It then explores different manifestations of political Islam in various contexts: Islamic states (Iran and Saudi Arabia), Muslim democracies (Turkey and Indonesia), Islam and pragmatism (Egypt and Pakistan), and political violence (Hamas, Hezbollah, and ISIS). In doing so, the course also integrates from three sub-disciplines of Political Science: Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory. Through careful examination of case studies, the course familiarizes the students with the political, social, cultural and economic diversity in the Muslim world.

This course has the following three objectives:

- First, the course aims to familiarize the students with the sources of radicalism and accommodation in the Muslim world.
- Second, it aims to give students a more nuanced and complete understanding of the politics, culture, and society in the Muslim world.
- Third, it seeks to supply students with the theoretical and empirical evidence necessary to evaluate and make critical, analytical arguments about the Muslim world in comparative perspective.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

#### Required Readings:

- Beth Baron, *The Orphan Scandal: Christian Missionaries and the Rise of the Muslim Brotherhood* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2014)
- L. Carl Brown, *Religion and State: The Muslim Approach to Politics* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2001)
- Mohammed Ayoob, *The Many Faces of Political Islam: Religion and Politics in the Muslim World*, (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2008)

There will be additional short materials including newspaper articles and news videos throughout the semester. Additional readings aim to make you link the course concepts with current issues. For this purpose, the additional readings will be selected from the most recent sources. All the readings will be available online.

Exams will cover the material in the textbook, additional reading assignments, and in-class materials including the lectures.

#### Make-Up Exams and Incompletes

I will not allow make-ups without an **official documented excuse** regarding medical or family emergencies. Any late assignments should be turned into me by person or via email. Please keep in mind that late assignments will be downgraded. An incomplete will only be given in exceptional circumstances (a documented circumstance beyond the student's control). Students will only be given an incomplete if they have been doing passing work during the semester.

## Code of Conduct

All students need to acquaint themselves with what constitutes academic dishonesty and the consequences thereof. See the general university policies for further information:

<http://www.unomaha.edu/aandsaffairs/leftcolumn/inside/students/policiesandprocedures/aiundergrad.php>. ***Laptops and other devices with internet connections are not allowed during the classes.***

Although I acknowledge that laptops provide several benefits for learning, I am convinced, based on my experience, that they distract students from the lecture and discussions.

## Fairness and Disability Statement

The instructor of this course is committed to support the learning of all students, irrespective of gender, race, age, religion, handicapping condition, or sexual preference. Students should be able to expect that their learning environments are free from any form of prejudice. Disparaging comments aimed stereotypically at any group and any questioning of the seriousness of purpose or academic commitment of students based upon group characteristics may undermine our educational mission. If such behavior occurs in class, students should first talk with the instructor. Identify specific examples of behavior by the instructor or by other students that the student finds offensive or disparaging. If the student is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaint, the student is encouraged to consult with the Department Chair and to seek the Chair's assistance in improving the classroom environment.

Students requiring special consideration must contact and work through the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in EAB 117 (554-2872). This office then notifies the instructor in writing of the accommodations the student needs in compliance with 504/ADA.

## Course Website

I will make use of the features of the Canvas system, which you can access through UNO webpage. The course syllabus, some of the course readings, lecture notes, and assignments will be available on this website. I may intermittently send course-related e-mails to you via this site. Therefore, you need to make sure that your university email is up and running and that you understand how to use your Canvas account.

## Grading

Your final grade will be based on the following criteria.

### **1. Attendance (5 %) and Participation (5 %)**

You are expected to attend all the course sessions. More than two unexcused absences will negatively influence your grade. After two absences, each absence will decrease your attendance grade by 0.5 %. You are also expected to productively contribute to classroom discussions. This contribution can be in the form of participating informal and formal debates, posing and responding questions, sharing other resources that can facilitate classroom learning. To facilitate your class participation, I encourage you to think critically, and as part of that, to think the positive aspects of the lectures and readings, and to develop your own analysis of the subject. Class attendance and participation will worth 10 percent of your final grade.

### **2. Exams (25 % each, 50 % total)**

There will be a midterm and a final exam based on the assigned readings and material covered in class. The exam dates are **February 22**, and **May 1**. Each exam is worth 25 percent of your final grade.

### **3. Reaction Paper (10 %)**

The students are expected to read Beth Baron's *The Orphan Scandal: Christian Missionaries and the Rise of the Muslim Brotherhood* in the first month of the semester and write a reaction paper on the book. In this paper, I will provide you a question, and you will answer the question by using the material in the book. On

February 1, we will have a class discussion on the book. Your paper will help you contribute to the class discussion. Further details about the assignment will be provided later. Your paper will be 3-page-long (double spaced), and you should use citations and quotations properly. The reaction paper is due on **February 1 before the class time**. This paper will worth 10 percent of your final grade.

#### **4. Research Paper (25 %)**

Each student is required to write a research paper on a political issue in one of the countries in the Muslim world. Issues relevant to all states include political reforms, economic reforms, elections, women's rights, and the domestic impact of regional political issues. If you have trouble identifying a good topic/theme to follow, please consult with me as early as possible so that I may assist you. This assignment, which include writing, speaking, and group work, has five components:

**a. News Reports (2.5 % each, 5 % total):** It is important to familiarize yourself with the country that you choose for your research assignment. You are required to make your country selection in the first two weeks of the semester. After making your country selection, familiarize yourself with the local news sources from your country and begin tracking local, European, and American press coverage. Therefore, starting from the third week of the semester, you will be required to read a local, a European and an American newspaper article on your country every week. Many Muslim countries have dailies in English. The following local news sources in English are available online: *Iran Daily* (Iran), *al-Abram Weekly* (Egypt), *Hurriyet Daily News* (Turkey), *Arab News* (Saudi Arabia), *Al-Jazeera* (Qatar), *the News International* (Pakistan), and *the Jakarta Post* (Indonesia). For European press, you may consult *BBC*, *Financial Times*, *The Times*, *The Economist*, *Le Figaro*, *Le Monde*. For American Press, you can read *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

To make sure that you read the news throughout the semester regularly, two news reports will be required. Each news report should include the source, date, title, and 2-3 sentence summary of the news that you will read. A template for the news reports will be posted on the course website in advance. The news reports are due on **March 8** and **April 19**. Unless you have a legitimate excuse, you will lose 10 percent of your grade for this assignment for each day your assignment is late. In the event of a problem, please contact me as soon as you know. Each news report weighs 2.5 percent of your final grade.

**b. Research Paper Memo (2.5 %):** In the middle of the semester, you are required to bring a one-page memo that includes your chosen country, the description of the issue that you select in a paragraph or two, and the relevant sources for your research and an outline for your research paper. The memo is due on **March 6**. The memo will worth 2.5 percent of your final grade.

**c. Final Paper (15 %):** Research paper will be 6-8 page-long (double spaced), and you should use citations and quotations properly. Your grade will depend on how well you provide the background for your case and how well you incorporate the knowledge that you get from this course into your paper. In the paper, you are required to consult outside sources. The paper will be due on **April 26**. The research paper will worth 15 percent of your final grade.

**d. Presentation (2.5 %):** All the students will present their research papers in the final two weeks of the semester in class. You will be provided a grade rubric before the presentations. The presentation of your work will worth 2.5 percent of your final grade.

**Graduate Student Research Paper:** Graduate students will be required to review the related literature in their research topic and write a 20-page (double spaced) research paper. The literature review should describe the breadth and depth of current scholarly research on the topic, and explain the relationship of studies to each other (conflicting theoretical frameworks from seminal to the most recent, methodological differences, etc.).

### **5. Inter-Generational Conversations on Politics (5 %)**

Starting from February 15, each student will be asked to lead and conduct an hour of discussion with the residents of Aksarben Senior Living on Thursday nights at 6 p.m. The schedule of student discussion leaders will be prepared in the first few weeks of the semester. The discussions at Aksarben Senior Living will carry our class discussions to the community. The students are encouraged to come up with a newspaper article related to the discussion (you may use your news report article for that particular week) so that the residents can read it in advance. The students will write a double-space one-page reflection paper summarizing the discussion and their experience. This assignment weighs 5 percent of your final grade.

#### *A Summary of Grading Requirements*

<u>Course Requirement</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Attendance	5 %	
Participation	5 %	
Inter-Generational Conversations	5 %	
Reaction Paper	10 %	February 1
Midterm Exam	25 %	February 22
Research Paper Memo	2.5 %	March 6
News Report I	2.5 %	March 8
News Report II	2.5 %	April 19
Final Paper	15 %	April 26
Presentation	2.5 %	April 17, 19, 24
Final Exam	25 %	May 1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 %</b>	

The entire course is worth 100 points:

A	94-100 points	C	72-76 points
A-	90-93 points	C-	69-71 points
B+	87-89 points	D+	66-68 points
B	83-86 points	D	63-65 points
B-	80-82 points	D-	60-62 points
C+	77-79 points	F	0-59 points

## **COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

*January 9: Overview of the Course*

No Reading

*January 11: Islam*

Brown, "Introduction," pp. 1-5

Brown, Ch. 1: "Setting the Stage: Islam and Muslims," pp. 9-18

*January 16: Political Islam*

Ayoob, Ch. 1: "Defining Concepts, Demolishing Myths," pp. 1-22.

Ayoob, Ch. 2: "Islam's Multiple Voices," pp. 23-41.

Brown, Ch. 2: "Islam, Judaism, and Christianity in Comparative Perspective: An Overview," pp. 19-30

***January 18: Middle East Forum (CEC, Room 230): Current Issues in the Middle East***

## ISLAM AND POLITICS IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT

### *January 23: State and Religion in Islam: A Historical Overview*

- Brown, Ch. 3: "Muslim 'Church Government,'" pp. 31-42.  
Brown, Ch. 4: "The Historical Bases of Traditional Muslim and Christian Political Theory," pp. 43-51  
Brown, Ch. 5: "Unity and Community," pp. 52-59.  
Brown, Ch. 6: "The Roots of Political Pessimism," pp. 60-67.  
Brown, Ch. 7: "Muslim Attitudes toward the State: An Impressionist Sketch," pp. 68-75.

### *January 25: The Rise of the West and Early Islamic Responses*

- Brown, Ch. 8: "Islam and Politics in Modern Times: The Great Transformation," pp. 79-86.  
Brown, Ch. 9: "Meeting the Western Challenge: The Early Establishment Response," pp. 87-98.  
Brown, Ch. 10: "The Early Antiestablishment Response to the Western Challenge," pp. 99-110.  
Brown, Ch. 11: "From World War I to the 1960s: The Years of Muted Islamist Politics," pp. 111-122.

### *January 30: The Islamist Backlash*

- Brown, Ch. 12: "The Return of Islam," pp. 123-133.  
Brown, Ch. 13: "The Radical Muslim Discourse," pp. 134-142.  
Brown, Ch. 14: "Al-Banna, Mawdudi, and Qutb," pp. 143-160.

### *February 1: Discussion on the Orphan Scandal*

Class discussion on Beth Baron's *The Orphan Scandal*

## Reaction Paper Due

## ISLAM AND POLITICS IN COMPARATIVE CONTEXT

### *February 6: Theocracies 1: The Islamic State*

Noah Feldman, "Why Sharia?," *New York Times Magazine*, March 16, 2008  
Watch the video of the interview with Ramazan Kilinc, "Islam and Muslims" available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjpQEAE5PgQ&feature=youtu.be>

*February 8: Video Screening "The Caliph Part 3: Decline"* (broadcasted at al-Jazeera on 8/4/2016) available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXXSo7WzZsk>

### *February 13: Theocracies 2: Iran*

- Ayoob, Ch. 3: "Self-Proclaimed Islamic States," pp. 42-63.  
Brown, Ch. 15: "Khomeini and Shi'ite Islamism," pp. 161-173.

### **February 15: Middle East Forum (CEC, Room 230): Current Issues in the Middle East**

### *February 20: Theocracies 3: Saudi Arabia*

Robert Lee, "State Sunnism in Saudi Arabia," in Robert Lee, *Religion and Politics in the Middle East: Identity, Ideology, Institutions, and Attitudes*, (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2013), pp 219-258.

## February 22: Midterm Exam

### *February 27: Democracies 1: Islam, Liberalism and Democracy*

Ahmet Kuru, "A Research Note on Islam, Democracy and Secularism," *Insight Turkey*, Volume 11 No 4 (2009), pp. 29-40.

*March 1: Democracies 2: Indonesia*

Ayoob, Ch. 5: "Muslim Democracies," pp. 90-111.

*March 6: Democracies 3: Turkey*

Ramazan Kılınc, "Critical Junctures, Catalysts and Democratic Consolidation in Turkey," *Political Science Quarterly*, Volume 129 No 2 (Summer 2014), pp. 293-318.

Ramazan Kılınc, "Turkish Islamism 2.0: Hegemonic, Nationalist, and Populist" *Berkeley Forum*, August 30, 2016.

### **Research Paper Memo Due**

*March 8: Class Discussion: Islam and Democracy: What is the Problem?*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsTFv0-MZOc>

*March 13: Authoritarianisms 1: Pakistan*

Ayoob, Ch. 4: "Between Ideology and Pragmatism," pp. 64-89.

### **News Report 1 Due**

*March 15: Authoritarianisms 2: Egypt*

Annette Ranko Justyna Nedza, "Crossing the Ideological Divide? Egypt's Salafists and the Muslim Brotherhood after the Arab Spring," *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, Volume 39 No 6 (2016), pp. 519-541

Massoda Bano and Hanane Benadi, "Regulating religious authority for political gains: al-Sisi's manipulation of al-Azhar in Egypt," *Third World Quarterly*, (2017).

*March 27: National Resistance: Hamas and Hezbollah*

Ayoob, Ch. 6: "Islamist National Resistance," pp. 112-130.

## **ISLAM AND POLITICS IN GLOBAL CONTEXT**

*March 29: Transnational Islam*

Ayoob, Ch. 7: "Transnational Islam," pp. 131-151.

*April 3: The Rise of ISIS*

John M Owen IV, "From Calvin to the Caliphate: What Europe's Wars of Religion Tell Us about the Modern Middle East," *Foreign Affairs*, Volume 94 No 3, (May/June 2015), pp. 77-89

Scott Atran, "ISIS is a Revolution," *AEON*, December 15, 2015.

*April 5: Why Religious Extremism?*

John Esposito, "Islam and Political Violence," *Religions*, Volume 6 No 3 (September 2015), pp. 1067-1081

Mark Juergensmeyer, "Entering the Mindset of Violent Religious Extremists," *Religions*, Volume 6 No 3 (September 2015), pp. 852-859

*April 10: Muslims in Western Europe*

Nancy Foner, "Is Islam in Western Europe Like Race in the United States?," *Sociological Forum*, Volume 30, No. 4 (December 2015), pp. 885-899.

*April 12: Muslims in the United States*

Christoph Schumann, "A Muslim Diaspora in the United States," *The Muslim World*, Volume 97, No. 1 (January 2007), pp. 11-32.

Jocelyn Cesari, "Political Participation among Muslims in Europe and the United States," in Karim Karim and Mahmoud Eid (eds), *Engaging the Other: Public Policy and Public-Western Intersections* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), pp. 173-189.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

*April 17: Student Presentations 1*

*April 19: Student Presentations 2*

**News Report 2 Due**

*April 24: Student Presentations 3*

*April 26: Conclusions*

Ayoob, Ch. 8: "The Many Faces of Political Islam," pp. 152-170.

Brown, "Conclusion," pp. 175-180.

**Final Paper due**

**May 1: Final exam (12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.)**