COURSE DESCRIPTION

Islam is everyday on the news in one way or another. As one of the world religions with more than a billion of Muslims worldwide, Islam plays important roles in world, national and local politics in different ways and to different levels and in different forms and shapes. This course seeks to open the gate toward a very vast and diverse realm of issues and questions using an interdisciplinary approach. The reasoning behind the organization of this course is that it will be short-sighted to focus on what is conventionally termed as politics in order to understand what is also commonly called 'political Islam'. Rather, the course is organized along a variety of themes that, when taken together, provide a more comprehensive as well as deep understanding of what might be termed as the phenomenon of 'Islam and world politics'. However, any semester-course can only fall short of satisfactorily covering its purported scope, and this course is no exception. Yet the course is rich enough to expose the students to a broad as well deep and varied knowledge of the issue-area of Islam and world politics.

WORK REQUIREMENTS

• Students are required to “digest” thoroughly each week’s readings before coming to class and thus be prepared to fully discuss the readings in depth and share their insights with the rest of the class.

• Each student is required to write a number of weekly 4-5 page reaction papers. The papers are to be emailed to the instructor before class. Each paper must focus on a particular question relevant to one or more of the readings. Try to develop a puzzling question rather than summarize the readings.

• Each student is required to make presentations and lead the subsequent discussion for the first hour of class on the topics addressed in one of his/her weekly reaction papers. The student making the presentation should email the reaction paper (which can go up to 8 pages) to the class on Monday 1:00-8:00pm. The remaining students are required to read it before class and come prepared to raise issues from it in the class discussion ensuing from the presentation.

• Students are required to write a 15-20 page research paper on a topic of Islam and world politics of their choice. Please see details down below.

GRADING POLICY

• Presenting report and leading the ensuing discussion: 10% of the final grade.
• Weekly papers: 40% of the final grade.
• Research paper: 40% of the final grade
• Presenting the research paper: 10% of the final grade
• Note: Late papers will not be accepted.

READINGS

There are two types of readings. A set of required readings are “a must read”, and a second set of highly recommended (but not required) readings that will help you deepen your knowledge of the topic of the week. The recommended readings might be a useful starting point for your research papers. All readings will be posted on sakai.

SPECIFICS ON THE RESEARCH PAPER

In order for the instructor to provide guidance in the preparation of the research paper, you will be required to turn in various brief intermediate papers throughout the semester.

Each student must:
1. Define a research question that interests him/her and that applies one of more of the approaches/themes from the materials covered in this course. Submit the research question and an abstract. **Date: September 8th.**
2. Submit a 2-3 page summary of the proposed research and expected results. **Date: September 29th.**
3. Submit a 6-8 page paper discussing the relevant literature to the research question (empirical as well as theoretical). **Date: October 20th.**
4. The final paper should be 15-20 pages long, including the bibliography. **Date: December 8th.**

IMPORTANT NOTES:

• The instructor reserves the right to change any part or aspect of this document should a need for doing so emerge at any point in time during the semester.
• Students requesting classroom accommodation for disabilities must register with the Dean of Students Office and provide documentation from this office.
• All students are required to abide by UF standards of academic honesty laid out in the Student Honor Code, posted at [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/)

IMPORTANT DATES

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<th>Classes begin</th>
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<td>December 9</td>
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WEEKLY READING ASSIGNMENTS AND OUTLINE OF THE COURSE

Week 1 / August 25: Islam and ‘Everyday’ Political Practices

Required

Recommended:

Week 2 / September 1: Islam and the Politics of ‘Disciplining’ Religion

Required

Recommended

Week 3 / September 8: Islam and the Politics of Memory

Required

**Recommended**


**Week 4/ September 15: Islam and the Politics of Modernity**

**Required**


**Recommended**


**Week 5/ September 22: Islam and the Politics of Secularism**

**Required**


**Recommended**

7. The Construction and

**Week 6/ September 29: Islam and the Politics of Governance**

**Required**


**Recommended**


**Week 7/ October 6: Islam and the Politics of Liberal Democracy**

**Required**


**Recommended**


**Week 8/ October 13: Islam and the Politics of Universal Human Rights**

**Required**

3. *Cairo Declaration on Human Rights*.
**Recommended**


**Week 9/ October 20: Islam and the Politics of the War on Terror**

**Required**


Recommended

Week 10/ October 27: Islam and the Politics of the ‘Just War’
Required

Recommended

Week 11/ November 3: Islam and the Politics of Security
Required

**Recommended**


**Week 12/ November 10: Islam and the Politics of the Post-colonial**

**Required**


**Recommended**

Week 13/ November 17: Islam and the Politics of Neoliberalism
Required

Recommended

Week 14/ November 24: Islam and the Politics of Law
Required

Recommended

Week 15/ December 1: Islam and the Politics of Free-Speech
Required

Week 16/ December 8: Islam and the Political in ‘World Politics’

Required

Recommended