

POLI 4060 – INTL 4997
Contemporary Islamic Political Thought
Spring 2022

T & Th 3:00-4:20
Coates 234

Professor: Dr. Fevzi Sarac
Office: Stubbs 307
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Office Hours: T & Th 12-2pm, or by appointment

ABOUT THIS COURSE

The relationship between religion and politics has been discussed for a long time. This course is designed to examine contemporary Islamic thoughts about politics. The course starts to figure out general ideas about the relationship between religion and politics, then focuses specifically the Islamic thoughts about the relationship. The course, also, delves into several movements and ideologues as an introduction to the Islamic thoughts on politics. This undergraduate level course aims the students to be familiar the basics of contemporary Islamic political thought. Thus, they may understand the general trends.

The format of the course will be active discussion between the students and the instructor on the assigned primary sources. The course is designed to facilitate the pursuit of independent research on a topic of interest to the student. You should be warned that the reading load is fairly heavy. The evaluation of your performance is distributed evenly through written work, oral presentations on the readings, and participation in seminar discussion, all of which demand that you keep up with the readings. Class participation, requiring skills for both listening and building a dialogue, will be essential for the success.

REQUIRED READINGS

All the readings for the course will come in the form of journal and magazine articles and excerpts from books. I will post each week's readings on Moodle, and will expect you to have read them by the beginning of each week.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Quizzes: 20%
Summary Paper and Discussion Leadership: 20%
Midterm: 25%
Final: 25%
Attendance and Participation: 10%

Quizzes: Student will take quizzes at the beginning and at the end of each module. I exclude the worst module quizzes in your final grade calculation. The rest ten module quizzes will affect 20% of your final grade.

Summary Paper and Discussion Leadership: Each week, some students will be responsible to write a summary of the articles associated to the week. Each student will be responsible to write summaries for two weeks during the semester. The students will also be responsible to lead the discussions in these assigned weeks.

Exams: There will be two exams. The midterm exam will be on Tuesday, March 22. The final exam will be on Wednesday, May 11, and it will start at 12:30. The exams will cover materials presented in the lectures, visual materials, and any assigned outside readings. If you must miss an exam, please contact me before the date of the exam. The format of the make-up exam (multiple choice, short answer, or essay) is left to the discretion of the instructor. NOTE: If you miss an exam and fail to contact me before the date of the exam, this behavior will result in a ZERO for that exam.

Attendance and Class Participation: Attendance is required and active participation in class discussion is expected. Students are expected to come to class prepared, having completed all of the reading and assignments before class.

COURSE POLICIES

Academic Integrity: LSU set high academic and personal standards for its students when, in 1995, it adopted the Commitment to Community guidelines. All students are expected to read and familiarize themselves with the LSU Code of Student Conduct (especially Sec. 10) to know both what is required from them and of the consequences for any offenses. For more specifics, see the following website: <https://www.lsu.edu/saa/>

Any type of plagiarism will not be accepted. To this end, you must utilize an appropriate citation method for all coursework if you draw from other sources for your response papers. If you do not know what constitutes plagiarism, please do not hesitate to ask.

Students with Disabilities: If you encounter barriers that may have an impact on your work in this class, please see a Coordinator in the Office of Disability Services so that such accommodations may be arranged. After you receive your accommodation letters, please meet with someone in that office to discuss the provision of those accommodations as soon as possible.

Receiving accommodations for your needs to help you through the semester is your right; getting in touch with me if you have any questions, is your responsibility. If something comes up, please contact me as soon as possible so that we can come up with a solution. Dealing with issues during the semester is far easier than after I have submitted final grades.

Late Work: Please avoid turning in late work. I realize life happens and that you may not always be able to submit your work on time. I will accept unexcused late assignments at a

deduction of 10% for each day it is late; I am willing to work with you if any problem arises, but I can only do so when you bring the matter to my attention and contacting me.

Classroom Behavior: This course is a safe space. Please respect the rights of all students to voice their ideas and opinions. All students should feel able to voice their ideas and opinions without fear of intimidation, interruption, harassment, or violence of any kind. Such actions on the part of students are in violation of the LSU Student Code of Conduct.

COVID-19 Pandemic Policy: Per LSU safety protocols, masks are mandatory for coming to class. Please check out <https://www.lsu.edu/president/messages/2022/01/01-spring-covid-protocols.php> for further information.

COURSE OUTLINE

Jan 18	Introduction
Jan 20 Jan 25	MODULE 1: Religion and State
Jan 27 Feb 1 Feb 3	MODULE 2: Islam and Politics
Feb 8 Feb 10	MODULE 3: Shiism and Islamic Thought in Iran
Feb 15 Feb 17	MODULE 4: Wahhabism and Salafism
Feb 22 Feb 24	MODULE 5: Modernish Salafiyya Muslim Brotherhood
Mar 3 Mar 8	MODULE 6: Islamic Thought in Pakistan and Bangladesh Jamaat e Islami
Mar 10 Mar 22	Review MIDTERM EXAM
Mar 24 Mar 29 Mar 31	MODEULE 7: Political Islam in Turkey AKP Gulen (The Hizmet) Movement
Apr 5 Apr 7	MODULE 8: Islamic Thought in Indonesia and Malaysia Muhammadiyah Nadhlatul Ulama

Apr 12
Apr 14

MODULE 9: Islamic Thought in North Africa

Apr 19
Apr 21

MODULE 10: Using Violence Based on Religion
ISIS, Al-Qaeda

Apr 26
Apr 29
May 3

MODULE 11: Muslims in the Western World

May 5

Review

Wed, May 11
12:30-2:30

FINAL EXAM