

Global Studies 190/290/390/490
Section 001
**Think Tank Learning Community:
Origins of Political Islam**
Fall 2006

Thursdays, 1:00-1:50 PM
Lubar Hall S195

Course Description

Analysis of the origins and evolution of various groups that have attempted to use Islam as the organizing principal of a political movement, with a focus on those that advocate the use of violence. The course is discussion-based, with an emphasis on English-language translations of sources from the Middle East.

Course Objectives

Students will become familiar with the historical and intellectual context of political Islamist movements in the Middle East. They will be able to differentiate between various groups' agendas and methods, and achieve an understanding of their heterogeneous nature.

Instructor

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Office Hours

By appointment in Garland 114

Student Responsibilities

Attendance: We meet once per week for less than one hour. Attendance is required.

**If you do not attend class, you will not pass.
If you are not prepared to make this minimal time commitment,
please drop this class.**

You are allowed **ONE** unexcused absence. Each additional unexcused absence will lower your final participation total by 5 points (see Grading Criteria below). If you need to have a scheduled absence, you must notify me beforehand. If you miss class due to illness or other emergency, you should contact me as soon as possible thereafter, before the next class in any case.

Preparation: Class time is used to discuss and think critically about the assigned material. For this time to be productive, we need a common body of knowledge as a point of departure. Accordingly, you are expected to get through the readings and other assigned sources **before** each class meeting.

Online posting: To help frame the class discussion, you must post a brief reflection piece each week in which you identify two or three discussion questions based on the materials assigned for the next class. **These postings must be made on the course D2L site by Tuesday of each week.**

Discussion: Class discussion is not a spectator sport. Sharing your perspective does several things: demonstrates your familiarity with the material; helps you organize your thoughts and positions; gives others the benefit of your penetrating and insightful analysis. Everyone is expected to contribute in class.

Academic Misconduct

Your integrity is of far greater value than any grade you might receive. You are expected to be honest in all aspects of your academic performance. Failure to do so will result in discipline under rules published by the Board of Regents (UWS 14). Further information on Academic Misconduct and UWM's related policies are available at:

<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/conduct.html#academic>

Participation by Students with Disabilities

If you need special accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of this course, please contact me as soon as possible.

Grading Criteria

Your final grade will be based on your point total in the following areas:

Discussion Postings (12 @ 3 points)	36 points possible
Class Participation	50 points possible
Final Policy Brief	14 points possible
	—————
	100 points possible

Grading Scale

A	(94-100 points)
A-	(90-93 points)
B+	(87-89 points)
B	(83-86 points)
B-	(80-82 points)
C+	(77-79 points)
C	(73-76 points)
C-	(70-72 points)
D+	(67-69 points)
D	(63-66 points)
D-	(60-62 points)
F	(< 60 points)

Discussion Posts

This course is discussion-based. It is assumed that the assigned materials will raise questions you'll want to explore in class. By Tuesday of each week, you will post a brief response to the material assigned for the following Thursday class. This should include 2-3 questions you'd like to see addressed in group discussion.

Policy Brief (2-3 pages)

You will be asked to assume the role of an American intelligence analyst. You must think critically and apply what you have learned to a hypothetical situation involving an Islamist group. Your task will be to assess the situation, provide relevant background information and context, and offer policy suggestions.

Textbook and Other Sources

There is no *required* textbook. However, a basic familiarity of the history of the region is necessary to place the material presented in context. Given our time constraints, we cannot adequately cover the historical narrative in class. Students with no prior knowledge of the history and politics of the modern Middle East are strongly encouraged to obtain a general overview of the region such as:

Goldschmidt Jr., Arthur (2005). *A Concise History of the Middle East* (8th ed.). Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

PowerPoints: Where possible, I will make brief *PowerPoint* presentations available on the D2L site to provide background for the texts we will discuss. Students should view these presentations before reading the texts.

Texts: Most texts we will discuss are accessible on the D2L site as PDF files. The others will be available in a packet at IKON in the UWM Union.

Websites: To achieve some level of understanding of the environment in which the groups we will study exist, it is critical to move beyond the perspective offered by the mainstream US media. Students are encouraged to monitor English language websites from the region. The follow sites are accessible via links on the D2L site. such as:

Al Jazeera: <http://english.aljazeera.net/HomePage>

Daily Star (Beirut): <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/home3.asp>

al-Ahram(Egypt): <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/>

Tehran Times (Iran): <http://www.tehrantimes.com/>

Arab News (Saudi Arabia): <http://www.arabnews.com>

Topics and Assigned Materials

(To be prepared prior to the class in which they are listed; those marked with an asterisk are on the D2L site; those with a superscript "P" appear in the packet.)

Section One: *Introduction and Historical Context*

September 7 **Course Introduction**

September 14 **Greatness Recalled: Fourteen Centuries of Islamic Empire**

- Background PowerPoint
- Text: Graham Fuller: *The Future of Political Islam**

September 21 **Governance, War and Peace: Classical Islamic Political Thought**

- Background PowerPoint
- Text: Khaled Abou El Fadl: *Islam and the Theology of Power**

- September 28 **The Middle East at the Dawn of the 20th Century**
- Background PowerPoint
 - Text: Jamal ad-Din al-Afghani: *The Materialists in India*^P
- October 5 **Secular Nationalism and Its Alternatives**
- Background PowerPoint
 - Text: *The Constitution of the Arab Ba'th Party*^P
- Section Two: Case Studies in Political Islam**
- October 12 **The Muslim Brotherhood**
- Background PowerPoint
 - Text: Hassan al-Banna: *Our Mission*^P
- October 19 **The Iranian Revolution**
- Background PowerPoint
 - Text: Ruhollah Khomeini: *Islam and Revolution*^P
 -
- October 26 **Hizbollah**
- Background PowerPoint
 - Text: *Statement of Purpose** and *Views and Concepts**
- November 2 **Hamas**
- Background PowerPoint
 - Text: *Covenant of the Islamic Resistance Movement**
- November 9 **Salafi and Jihadi Movements**
- Background PowerPoint
 - Text: Sayyid Qutb: *Milestones (Excerpts)** and Tariq Ramadan: *Western Muslims and the Future of Islam (Excerpt)*^P
- November 16 **The Mujahideen and Afghan Arabs**
- Background PowerPoint
 - Text: Abdullah Azzam: *Defense of the Muslim Lands** (Chapters 2 and 3)
- November 23 **Thanksgiving- No Class**
- November 30 **al-Qaeda**
- Background PowerPoint
 - Text: *Declaration of War Against the Americans** and *Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders**
- December 7 **The Future of Political Islam Revisited**
- Mohammad Ayoob: *The Future of Political Islam: The Importance of External Variables**

[Policy Brief Due]