

ISLAM AND POLITICS

Webster University
SOCS 5030.02 Islam and Politics
Raymond Gude, Instructor
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Fall –2, 2005, Oct 17-Dec. 16
Wednesdays, 5:30–9:30 p.m.
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Description: At least since the mid-20th century, national and international Islamic movements have become an ever more visible and important factor influencing international affairs. The Arab-Israeli conflict, the international war on terror, and democracy building in countries as far-flung and diverse as Pakistan, Nigeria, and Indonesia are all examples of places where “the politics of Islam” are an influential factor in determining the future course of conflicts and their resolution. This course will briefly survey the relationship between religion and politics within various Islamic traditions and consider how these relationships have shaped the course of domestic and international politics in various countries within the Muslim world. Students will have the opportunity to explore the interrelationship between Islam and politics in a country of their choosing through their own research, reading, and class presentations.

Required Texts: The textbooks for the course are:

Esposito, John, L., 1998, Islam and Politics, 4th Edition, Syracuse University Press.

Lewis, Bernard, 2003, The Crisis of Islam, Random House Trade Paperbacks, New York.

Grading: Course grades will be based on the following:

Attendance and Participation – 20%: Students should keep up with the class reading and demonstrate knowledge of the material through class participation and discussion.

Interim Paper and Oral Report – 20%. Each student will present an in-class reports based on a country, which will be the primary focus of his or her own research. The first report should consist primarily of a summary of the text material related to one’s country of interest and discussion and comments on what topics the student intends to explore through further research. The material presented orally should also be submitted in a short essay due in the 4th week of class.

Oral Report #2 – 30%. In a second oral report each student will report on information and conclusions drawn from additional research on the country of their choice.

Final Paper – 30%: The final paper should be a summation of all the student’s research and reading done during the course. It should include material from both the initial essay and both reports, but with revisions or reorganization based on feedback from the instructor and other class participants.

Over for tentative class schedule

Islam and Politics
Webster University
Tentative schedule for Fall 2, 2005

Wed. Oct. 19 – Islam and its Traditions of Government

Reading: Lewis – Introduction and Chapter 1; Esposito - Chapter 1

Wed. Oct. 26 – Islam in a World of Non-Believers

Reading: Lewis – Chapters 2 and 3; Esposito – Chapter 2

Wed. Nov. 02 – Islam and the West in the Modern World

Reading: Lewis – Chapters 4; Esposito – Chapters 3 and 4

Student Reports # 1

Wed. Nov. 09 – The Rise and Fall of Islamic Socialism

Reading: Lewis – Chapter 5; Esposito – Start Chapter 5

Student Reports # 1

Wed. Nov. 16 – Authoritarianism and Democracy in the Islamic World: Part 1

Reading: Lewis – Chapter 6 and 7

Student Reports # 1

Research Essay Due

Wed. Nov. 23 – Catch up and Review

Wed. Nov. 30 – What Happened to Liberal Islam?

Reading: Lewis – Chapters 8 and 9 and Afterward

Student Reports #2

Wed. Dec. 07 – Authoritarian and Democracy in the Islamic World: Part 2

Reading: Esposito – Finish Chapter 5

Student Reports #2

Wed. Dec 14 – Islam, the West, the Future?

Reading: Esposito – Chapter 6

Student Reports # 2

Final Paper Due