

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
Department of Sociology

Fall Term 2008

Sociology 49
119 Silsby Hall
3A (Mon. 3-6)

Professor Misagh Parsa

Social Origins and Outcomes of Islamic Fundamentalism

Office: Room 106 Silsby
Phone: 6-3166

Office Hours:
Wed. 8-10

Social Origins and Outcomes of Islamic Fundamentalism. This course begins with an examination of theories of the rise Islamic fundamentalism. We will then apply the theories to the case of Islamic Republic of Iran, analyzing the causes, processes, and outcome of the formation of a theocratic state. Finally, we will apply our conclusions to other Islamic movements in the Middle East.

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak to me and give me a copy of your accommodations form by the end of the second week of the term. All discussions will remain confidential, although the Director of Student Disabilities may be consulted if questions arise.

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For help with all your writing tasks, visit the Composition Center. Call 6-3525 or visit 108 Sanborn to make a free appointment on Sundays, 4-10 pm, and Mondays - Thursdays, 2-10 pm. For additional information about the Center and college writing, visit their webpage: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~compose>

Text:

- Misagh Parsa, *Social Origins of the Iranian Revolution*. Rutgers University Press, 1989.

Reserved Readings:

- Abdel Bari Atwan, *The Secret History of al Qaeda*. University of California: Berkeley, and Los Angeles, 2006.
- S. Arjomand, Chapter 10, "Significance of the Islamic Revolution: A Comparative Perspective," in *Turban for the Crown*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.
- Graham Fuller, "A World Without Islam", in *Foreign Policy* Jan-Feb, 2008

- Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol 27, No. 3, Summer 1993.
- Mansoor Moaddel, *Islamic Modernism, Nationalism, And Fundamentalism: Episode and Discourse*, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2005.
- Malise Ruthven, *Fundamentalism: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- Bernard Lewis, *What Went Wrong? Western Impact and Middle Eastern Response*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Loren Lybarger, *Identity and Religion in Palestine: The Struggle Between Islamism and Secularism in the Occupied Territories*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007.
- A. Kevin Reinhart, "Legitimacy and Authority in Islamic Discussions of "Martyrdom Operations," in *Enemy Combatants, Terrorism, And Armed Conflict Law*, Edited by David Linnan, Praeger, 2008.

Course Requirements:

1. A take-home exam
2. Final options: a final take-home exam, or a research paper on fundamentalism
2. Class attendance and participation

SCHEDULE:

WEEKS 1 - 2

Sep. 24 –Oct. 3

• Introduction to Islam and Religious Fundamentalism

Readings:

Ruthven, please read the entire book

Guest speakers: Amin Plaisted and Nahid Tabatabai

Film: "Mohammad: The Legacy of a Prophet"

WEEKS 3

Oct. 6 -10

• Islamic Fundamentalism:

Readings:

A. Kevin Reinhart, "Legitimacy and Authority . . .
Atwan, *The Secret History*. . . , Chapters Intro, 1-3

Guest speaker: Professor A. Kevin Reinhart

Film: "Meeting Osama Bin Laden," PBS

WEEK 4

Oct. 13-17

• **Islam: History and Development:**

Readings:

Lewis, What Went Wrong, Chapters Intro, 1, 3-5, Conclusion
Rodinson, Chapters 2-3

Guest speaker: General John Abizaid

Film: "Islam: Empire of Faith"

WEEKS 5-7

Oct. 20-Nov. 7

• **The Iranian Revolution and Islamic Fundamentalism:**

Readings:

Parsa, Social Origins, please read the entire book
Arjomand, Chapter 10
Moaddel, Chapter 11

Guest speaker: Professor Gene Garthwaite, October 20

Films: "The Search for Political and Religious Links"
"Iran: A Revolution Betrayed"

WEEKS 8

Nov. 10-14

• **Khomeini's ideology:**

Readings:

Abrahamian, Khomeinism, Chapters 1, 2, Epilogue
Guest speaker: Ervand Abrahamian, November 10

WEEK 9

Nov. 17-21

• **Islamic Fundamentalism in Comparative Perspective:**

Readings:

Moaddel, Islamic Modernism, Nationalism . . . Chapters 9-13
Lybarger, Chapters 2 and 3

Film: "The Arab World (part 5)," Bill Moyers

WEEK 10

Nov. 24

No class-Professor Parsa will be at the MESA conference

WEEK 11

December 1

• **Islamic Fundamentalism and Clash of Civilizations**

Readings:

Samuel Huntington, *Clash of Civilizations*

Graham Fuller, "A World Without Islam", in *Foreign Policy* Jan-Feb, 2008