

The University of Texas at Austin  
Department of Middle Eastern Studies  
Term: Fall 2023  
Time: TTH 11:00 PM-12:30 PM  
Classroom: PAR 203  
Office Hours: F 3-5; or by appointment

Dr. Samy Ayoub  
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## **ISLAM AND POLITICS** **ISL 373/MES 341/GOV 364C/RS 358C**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an introduction to modern Islamic political thought. It seeks to provide both an overview of key ideas and themes that have informed mainstream Muslim politics during the 20<sup>th</sup> century as well provide an engagement with influential thinkers and texts that have shaped Muslim political behavior during this period. We will examine the way in which modernity was negotiated in the emerging Muslim states, the debate on God's sovereignty versus popular sovereignty and more broadly the moral bases of legitimate political authority. We will also explore how prominent Muslim thinkers have sought to engage with and respond to the rise of nationalism, socialism, capitalism, democracy, human rights, colonialism, imperialism, and Zionism.

### **PREREQUISITES**

None

### **GLOBAL CULTURES FLAG**

This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.

### **LEARNING GOALS**

After completing this course successfully, students should be able to:

- Outline the central themes and contentions within modern Muslim political thought.
- Identify key figures who contributed to Muslim responses to colonialism and nationalism.
- Describe the types of political thought among Muslim activists in the 20<sup>th</sup> century CE.
- Situate calls to self-determination, liberation, and decolonialism within postcolonial Muslim states and evaluate current attempts to rethink democratic rule, revolution, and authoritarianism.
- Give an overview of specific case studies and reasons of Islamist national politics, mobilization, and political violence in local and global contexts.

## **ONE-TIME-ONLY TRIGGER WARNING:**

Over the course of the semester, you will be encountering several topics that you may find challenging or difficult. I will encourage you to carefully look at the themes and subjects of the textbook to seek potential accommodation according to UT policy or determine whether this course is suitable for you.

## **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Roxanne Euben and Muhammad Qasim Zaman eds., *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009).

## **DOCUMENTARY FILMS:**

[Required] *Koran by Heart* (HBO documentary)

[Optional] *Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet* (Unity Productions Foundation)

Additional readings, especially primary sources in translation, will be provided in class

## **RECOMMENDED WORKS:**

Jonathan P. Berkey *The Formation of Islam: Religion and Society in the Near East, 600- 1800 (Themes in Islamic History)*

Sherman Jackson, *Islam and the Problem of Black Suffering*

M.A.S. Abdel Haleem, *The Qur'an: English translation and Parallel Arabic text*

Dalia Mogahed and John Esposito, *Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think*

**SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS:** To be placed on the course website on CANVAS.

## **GRADING:**

Required Assignments

Class attendance	10%
2 Pop-up Quizzes	20%
(4) Journal Entries, 5% each.	20%
Midterm Test	20%
Final Test	30%

## GRADING SCHEME

Total %	Letter Grade	Total %	Letter Grade
94–100	A	72-75.9	C
90–93.9	A-	69-71.9	C-
87–89.9	B+	66-68.9	D+
84–86.9	B	63-65.9	D
80–83.9	B-	60-62.9	D-
76–79.9	C+	<60	F

*Note:* Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Attendance is required. Students will be expected to ask informed questions, and to respect each other, the professor, teaching assistant and guest lecturers. Students are encouraged to visit their professor during his office hours for informal conversation and/or help with the course.

**Pop-up QUIZZES:** will usually be on *Tuesdays*. These quizzes will be based on both class notes and readings. A failure to stay on top of course readings will result in poor grades. I will offer make-up quizzes and tests only for extenuating circumstances, at my discretion, if the reason is compelling and documented according to UT policy.

**JOURNALS:** Over the course of the semester, you must write *4 journal entries* (each entry is 5% of the overall 20% assigned to Journals). The entries are based on the readings assigned on the due date. Please upload your journal to canvas. Entries must be submitted by 11:59 PM on the due dates given in the syllabus. Late entries will be marked *2 points* down for *each* late submission.

In each entry, you must do the following:

- Summary of the reading's key issues and arguments
- Relate this reading to other conversations in class or approaches discussed in the reading.
- Offer your own reflections upon the reading.
- Entries should be 250-300 words in length.
- Style: Font: Times New Roman, 11pt; Margins: 1 inch; Line Spacing: Double.
- Each journal entry will be assigned *5 points*, equally distributed between the categories in the rubric below:

**Deadlines for Journal Entries:**

- Journal Entry # 1 — August 31, 2023 @ 11:59 PM
- Journal Entry # 2 — September 21, 2023 @ 11:59 PM
- Journal Entry # 3 — October 5, 2023 @ 11:59 PM
- Journal Entry # 4 — November 2, 2023 @ 11:59 PM

**Rubric for Journals:**

<b>Content</b> (3 points)	Journal entry focuses on the important information in the reading. It details key issues and arguments of the readings	Journal entry provides a general idea about the reading, but it does not address the arguments or the issue of the reading. It offers some summary of the readings	Journal entry does not engage with the reading and offers no relevant information
<b>Reflection</b> (1 points)	Journal entry offers a reflection on, and personalization of, the theories, concepts, and/or strategies presented in the reading materials to date. Viewpoints and interpretations are insightful and supported.	Journal entry offers a minimal reflection on, and personalization of, the theories, concepts, and/or strategies presented in the course materials to date. Viewpoints and interpretations are unsupported or supported with flawed arguments	Journal entry offers no reflection on, or personalization of, the theories, concepts, and/or strategies presented in the course materials to date. Viewpoints and interpretations are missing, inappropriate, and/or unsupported.
<b>Grammar, Mechanics, Spelling, and Sentence Structure</b> (1 points)	Journal is polished; maximum of <i>one</i> grammar or spelling error	Journal is adequate; maximum of <i>three</i> grammar or spelling errors.	Inadequate discussion; more than <i>five</i> spelling or grammar errors.

**MID-TERM TEST** – The format of this test will consist of identifications (terms and passages), and short essays. This will be administered on **Tuesday, October 10, 2023**.

**FINAL TEST** – The final test is accumulative. It will be on the last day of classes **Thursday, November 30, 2023**.

**COURSE WEBSITES**

In this class I use Canvas – a Web-based course management system with password-protected access at <http://canvas.utexas.edu>– to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, etc. You can find support in using Canvas at the ITS Help Desk at (512) 475-9400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., so plan accordingly.

## SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

### WEEK ONE

**Tuesday, August 22**

INTRODUCTIONS + SYLLABUS

**Thursday, August 24**

Islamic Political Thought

Charles Hirschkind, “What Is Political Islam?” *Middle East Report*, 205 (1997): 12-14.  
[CANVAS]

### WEEK TWO

**Tuesday, August 29**

Roxanne Euben and Muhammad Qasim Zaman eds., “Introduction,” *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden* (Princeton University Press, 2009), 1-46.

**Thursday, August 31 (Journal entry # 1 due)**

Bobby S. Sayyid, *A Fundamental Fear: Eurocentrism and the Emergence of Islamism* (Zed Books, 2003), pp. 7-26 (Framin’ Fundamentalism)

### WEEK THREE

**Tuesday, September 5**

Bobby S. Sayyid, *A Fundamental Fear: Eurocentrism and the Emergence of Islamism* (Zed Books, 2003), 31-51 (Thinking Islamism, (re)thinking Islam. [CANVAS]).

**Thursday, September 7**

Jamal ad-Din al-Afghani

Nikki Keddie, An Islamic Response to Imperialism: The Political and Religious Writings of Sayyid Jamal ad-Din “al-Afghani” (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1983). [CANVAS].

## WEEK FOUR

### PART 1. ISLAMISM: AN EMERGING WORLD VIEW

#### **Friday, September 12**

Hassan Al Banna

Hasan al-Banna, “Toward the Light,” in Roxanne Euben and Muhammad Qasim Zaman eds., *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden* (Princeton University Press, 2009), 49-79.

Hasan al-Banna, *Letter to a Muslim Student* (Leicester, UK: Islamic Foundation, 1999).  
[CANVAS]

#### **Thursday, September 1**

Sayyid Abu'l Ala Mawdudi

Sayyid Abu'l Ala Mawdudi, “The Islamic Law,” in Roxanne Euben and Muhammad Qasim Zaman eds., *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al- Banna to Bin Laden* (Princeton University Press, 2009), 86-106.

## WEEK FIVE

### PART 2. REMAKING THE ISLAMIC STATE

#### **Tuesday, September 19**

Sayyid Qutb

Sayyid Qutb, “Signposts along the road,” in Roxanne Euben and Muhammad Qasim Zaman eds., *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al- Banna to Bin Laden* (Princeton University Press, 2009), 129-144.

#### **Thursday, September 21 (Journal entry # 2 due)**

Ayatullah Ruhollah Khomeini

Ayatullah Ruhollah Khomeini, “Islamic Government,” in Roxanne Euben and Muhammad Qasim Zaman eds., *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden* (Princeton University Press, 2009), 155-180.

[Selected excerpts from speeches] Ayatullah Ruhollah Khomeini, *Islam and Revolution: The Writings and Declaration of Imam Khomeini*, translated and annotated by Hamid Algar (Berkeley: Mizan Press, 1981), 181-188, 254-260, 263-264, 278-285 [CANVAS].

## **WEEK SIX**

### **Tuesday, September 26**

Baqer Moin, “Khomeini’s Search for Perfection: Theory and Reality,” in Ali Rahnema ed., *Pioneers of Islamic Revival*, updated edition (New York: Zed Books, 2005), 64-97 [CANVAS].

### **Thursday, September 28**

Muhammad Bāqir al-Ṣadr

Roxanne Euben and Muhammad Qasim Zaman eds., “Introduction,” *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden* (Princeton University Press, 2009), 181-206.

## **WEEK SEVEN**

### **Tuesday, October 3**

Hasan al-Turābi

Roxanne Euben and Muhammad Qasim Zaman eds., “Introduction,” *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden* (Princeton University Press, 2009), 207-223.

### **Thursday, October 5**

Yūsuf al-Qaradāwī (**Journal entry # 3 due**)

Roxanne Euben and Muhammad Qasim Zaman eds., “Introduction,” *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden* (Princeton University Press, 2009), 224-248.

## **WEEK EIGHT**

### **Tuesday, October 10**

❖Midterm TEST❖

### **Thursday, October 12**

#### **PART 3. ISLAMISM AND GENDER**

Murtaza Mutahhari

Roxanne Euben and Muhammad Qasim Zaman eds., “Introduction,” *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden* (Princeton University Press, 2009), 249-274.

## WEEK NINE

### **Tuesday, October 17**

Zaynab al-Ghazali

Roxanne Euben and Muhammad Qasim Zaman eds., “Introduction,” *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden* (Princeton University Press, 2009), 275-301.

### **Thursday, October 19**

Nadia Yassine

Roxanne Euben and Muhammad Qasim Zaman eds., “Introduction,” *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden* (Princeton University Press, 2009), 302-320.

## WEEK TEN

### **PART 4. VIOLENCE, ACTION, AND JIHAD**

### **Tuesday, October 24**

Muhammad ‘Abd al-Salām Faraj

Roxanne Euben and Muhammad Qasim Zaman eds., *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden* (Princeton University Press, 2009), 321-342.

### **Thursday, October 26**

**Documentary: *Koran by Heart* (HBO documentary)**

## WEEK ELEVE

### **Tuesday, October 31**

‘Umar ‘Abd al-Rahmān

Roxanne Euben and Muhammad Qasim Zaman eds., *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden* (Princeton University Press, 2009), 344-355.

**Thursday, November 2 (Journal entry # 4 due)**

Hamas

Roxanne Euben and Muhammad Qasim Zaman eds., *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden* (Princeton University Press, 2009), 356-386.

## WEEK TWELVE

### **PART 5. GLOBALIZING JIHAD**

**Tuesday, November 7**

Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah

Roxanne Euben and Muhammad Qasim Zaman eds., *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden* (Princeton University Press, 2009), 387-408.

**Thursday, November 9**

The Talibān

Roxanne Euben and Muhammad Qasim Zaman eds., *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden* (Princeton University Press, 2009), 409-424.

## WEEK THIRTEEN

**Tuesday, November 14**

Bin Laden

Roxanne Euben and Muhammad Qasim Zaman eds., *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden* (Princeton University Press, 2009), 425-459.

**Thursday, November 16**

Muhammad Ata' al-Sayyid

Roxanne Euben and Muhammad Qasim Zaman eds., *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden* (Princeton University Press, 2009), 460-472.

**Fall Break (No Classes)**

**November: 20-25**

**WEEK FOURTEENTH**

**Tuesday, November 28**

**Recap**

**Thursday, November 30**

**❖FINAL TEST❖**



## **COURSE POLICIES**

The materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, exams, quizzes, and homework assignments are copyright protected works. Any unauthorized copying of the class materials is a violation of federal law and may result in disciplinary actions being taken against the student. Additionally, the sharing of class materials without the specific, express approval of the instructor may be a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty, which could result in further disciplinary action. Such violations include, among other things, uploading class materials to websites for the purpose of sharing those materials with other current or future students.

### ***University Policy on Religious Holidays:***

A student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible (at least **fourteen days** in advance), so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

### ***Extension Policy:***

Extensions on papers and exams will only be granted for documented, exigent circumstances.

### ***Accessible Education:***

The University of Texas at Austin provides, upon request, appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. You will need to provide documentation to the Dean of Student's Office so that the most appropriate accommodations can be determined. Specialized services are available on campus through Services for Students with Disabilities (SSB 4.104, 512-471-6259). Any student who requires special accommodations must obtain a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (512-471-6259 voice or 512-471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). Present the letter to the professor at the beginning of the semester so that needed accommodations can be discussed. The student should remind the professor of any testing accommodations no later than five business days before an exam. For more information, visit <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

### ***Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty:***

"The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community" (University Honor Code). "As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity" (New Student Honor Code). Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty of plagiarism are subject to disciplinary

penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information please visit the Student Judicial Services Web site: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs>.

***E-mail and this Course:***

Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, you are responsible for reading your email for university and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible for keeping the university informed about changes to your e-mail address. You should check your e-mail regularly and frequently to stay current with

university-related communications, some of which may be time-critical. University policy suggests that students should check e-mail at a minimum of twice per week. You can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating your e-mail address at [www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php](http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php).

***Drop Dates:***

Please consult the registrar's website for important information on drop dates.

***Resources for Life and Learning at UT Austin:***

The University of Texas has numerous resources for students to provide assistance and support for your learning. They include:

- Sanger Learning and Career Center: <http://lifelearning.utexas.edu/>
- Undergraduate Writing Center: <http://uwc.utexas.edu/>
- Counseling & Mental Health Center: <http://cmhc.utexas.edu/>