

The University of Texas at Austin
Department of Middle Eastern Studies
Term: Spring 2021
Time: MWF 2:00PM- 3:00PM
Office Hours: T 2-3; or by appointment

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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 20th 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 20th 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

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).

GRADING: Due to COVID-19 measures, our class will be meeting online via Zoom.

Required Assignments

“Online” Attendance/Participation	10%
(3) Quizzes, 10% each	30%
(5) Journal Entries, 4% each	20%
Midterm Test	20%
Final Test	20%

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 AND PARTICIPATION POLICY: Attendance is required. “Attendance” in this online format will be ability to watching the lecture synchronously or “watching” the recorded lecture if you have legitimate reasons that it will inhibit or cause difficulty for you to online attendance.

All students should read the assigned readings beforehand and be ready for class discussions. If these discussions are to be successful, students will need to have carefully read the assigned texts. Students will be expected to ask informed questions, and to respect each other, the professor, teaching assistant and guest lecturers. Students can increase their participation grade by visiting their professor during his office hours for informal conversation and/or help with the course.

QUIZZES: will usually be on Fridays and will be held on Canvas. Students will have a 24-hr period to complete. It will be a short question or multiple-choice quiz administered and graded via Canvas. 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 **5 journal entries** (each entry is 4% 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 **4 points**, equally distributed between the categories in the rubric below:

Deadlines for Journal Entries

- Journal Entry # 1 — February 1, 2021 @ 11:59 PM
- Journal Entry # 2 — February 15, 2021 @ 11:59 PM
- Journal Entry # 3 — March 1, 2021 @ 11:59 PM
- Journal Entry # 4 — March 22, 2021 @ 11:59 PM
- Journal Entry # 5 — April 5, 2021 @ 11:59 PM

Rubric for Journals:

	A-B range (4-2)	C-D range (2-1)	F range (1-0)
Content (2 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
Reflection (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.
Grammar, Mechanics, Spelling, and Sentence Structure (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 a take-home test administered via Canvas on **Friday, March 12**. Students will have a 24-hr period to complete the test. The test must be completed in the same session once you start it.

FINAL TEST – the final test will be a take-home test administered via Canvas on the last day of classes **May 7, 2021**. Students will have a 24-hr period to complete the test. The test must be completed in the same session once you start it.

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

Wednesday, January 20: Syllabus + Course Introduction

Friday, January 22: Islamic Political Thought

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

WEEK TWO

Monday, January 25:

Roxanne Euben, “Changing Interpretations of Modern and Islamic Political Theory,” in John Dryzek, Bonnie Honig and Anne Phillips eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006), 297-313. [CANVAS].

Wednesday, January 27:

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.

Friday, January 29:

Fred Dallmayr, “Introduction [to Islamic Political Thought],” in Fred Dallmayr ed. *Comparative Political Theory* (New York: Palgrave, 2010), 23-32. [CANVAS].

WEEK THREE

PART 1. ISLAMISM: AN EMERGING WORLD VIEW

Monday, February 1: (Journal entry # 1)

Bobby S. Sayyid, *A Fundamental Fear: Eurocentrism and the Emergence of Islamism* (Zed Books, 2003), pp. 7-26 (Framin’ Fundamentalism), and 31-51 (Thinking Islamism, (re)thinking Islam. [CANVAS].

Wednesday, February 3

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].

Friday, February 5

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]

WEEK FOUR

Monday, February 8:

Cont. Hassan Al Banna

David Commins, “Hasan al-Banna (1906-1949),” in Ali Rahnema ed., *Pioneers of Islamic Revival*, updated edition (New York: Zed Books, 2005), 125-153 [CANVAS].

Wednesday, February 10

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

Friday, February 12

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.

WEEK FIVE

PART 2. REMAKING THE ISLAMIC STATE

Monday, February 15: (Journal entry # 2)

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].

Wednesday, February 17: 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].

Friday, February 19: Said Amir Arjomand, “Khomeini and the Islamic Revolution,” in Said Amir Arjomand, *After Khomeini: Iran Under His Successors* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009), 16-35 [CANVAS].

WEEK SIX

Monday, February 22:

Muhammad Bāqir al-Ṣadr

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), 181-206.

Wednesday, February 24: Hasan al-Turābi

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), 207-223.

Friday, February 26: Yūsuf al-Qaraḍāwī

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), 224-248.

WEEK SEVEN

PART 3. ISLAMISM AND GENDER

Monday, March 1: (**Journal entry # 3**)

Murtaza Mutahhari

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), 249-274.

Wednesday, March 3: Zaynab al-Ghazali

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), 275-301.

Friday, March 5: Nadia Yassine

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), 302-320.

WEEK EIGHT

Monday, March 8:

Guest Lecture, TBA

Wednesday, March 10: Review Session

Friday, March 12: Midterm Test

SPRING BREAK: MARCH 15-19 (NO CLASS)

WEEK NINE

Monday, March 22: Recap, Test results (**Journal entry # 4**)

Wednesday, March 24: *Inside the Muslim Brotherhood Documentary* by National Geographic

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/xlam8o>

Friday, March 26: Guided Discussions on the Documentary

WEEK TEN

PART 4. VIOLENCE, ACTION, AND JIHAD

Monday, March 29: Muḥammad ‘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.

Wednesday, March 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.

Friday, April 2: 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 ELEVEN

Monday, April 5: Muhammed Husayn Fadlallah (**Journal entry # 5**)

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.

Wednesday, April 7: 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.

Friday, April 9: Rethinking American strategy

Recent US Negotiation with the Taliban

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-is-back-on-path-toward-deal-with-taliban-11575073855>

WEEK TWELVE

PART 5. GLOBALIZING JIHAD

Monday, April 12: 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.

Wednesday, April 14: 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.

Friday, April 16: Recap: Reflection on the Textbook readings. Please come prepared to offer some thoughts on the readings, themes, and figures we discussed so far.

WEEK THIRTEEN

Monday, April 19: Rashid Ghannouchi

*Rashid Ghannouchi, "Participation in Non-Islamic Government," in Charles Kurzman ed., *Liberal Islam: A Sourcebook* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998), 89-95.

[PCL– UT owns the electronic book]

https://search.lib.utexas.edu/permalink/01UTAU_INST/1ilchdf/alma991057941097706011

Wednesday, April 21

*John Voll and John Esposito, “Rashid Ghannouchi: Activist in Exile,” in John Voll and John Esposito, *Makers of Contemporary Islam* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001), 91-117.

Friday, April 23: An interview with Tunisia’s Rachid Ghannouchi

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/an-interview-with-tunisia-s-rachid-ghannouchi-three-years-after-the-revolution/2013/12/12/7aaaaa5a-62cf-11e3-a373-0f9f2d1c2b61_story.html

WEEK FOURTEEN

Monday, April 26: Islamism After the Arab Spring

Shadi Hamid and William McCants, *Rethinking Political Islam*, Introduction, 1-16.

Peter Mandaville, “Islamism and U.S. Foreign Policy,” in *Rethinking Political Islam*, 203-219.

Ovamir Anjum, “Do Islamists Have an Intellectual Deficit?” in *Rethinking Political Islam*, 300-307.

Wednesday, April 28: ISIS and Regional Re-ordering

Malise Ruthven, “[Inside the Islamic State](#),” *New York Review of Books*, July 9, 2015.

Andrew Lebovich, How “Religious” Are ISIS Fighters?” in *Rethinking Political Islam*, 295-299.

Friday, April 30:

Stephen Walt, “[ISIS as Revolutionary State: New Twist on an Old Story](#),” *Foreign Affairs*, pp. 1-9. October 22, 2015.

WEEK FIFTEEN

Monday, May 3: Islamism after the Arab Spring

Ashraf El Sherif, “Islamism after the Arab Spring” *Current History* (2011) [CANVAS]

Wednesday, May 5: Final notes and Reflection

Friday, May 7: Final Test

COURSE POLICIES

Use of Class Materials:

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.

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/>