
Islamic Fundamentalism in the Arab World

Dr. Maha El-Taji Daghsh

Course Number: 702.2179

Class Time: TBA

Class Location: TBA

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Course Description:

This course will examine the resurgence of fundamentalist movements that advocate the return to the original sources of Islam to guide social, political and civic life in the contemporary Arab world. The nature and specific characteristics of these Islamic movements, and the causes and implications of Islamic resurgence, will be studied within their relevant regional, local, historical, political and social contexts. The interaction between these Islamic ideologies and modernity, democracy and feminism will also be surveyed. Students will be exposed to the writings and principles of some of the main contemporary Islamic fundamentalist thinkers and leaders, and to the ideology and political influence of the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas, and Al Qaeda. Students who complete this course will gain a better understanding of the current cultural, social and political issues facing the Arab world, specifically, and the entire world in general.

Course Requirements:

- Regular class attendance. "Class attendance is a formal requirement of both the University and the International School, and it is used as one of the factors to determine your final grade in a course. If you must miss a class for health or other legitimate reasons, please notify the instructor - do not just disappear. Since class sizes are relatively small, absences may have a particularly detrimental effect on the quality of instruction." This is a direct quote from Dr. Hanan Alexander's letter which is in your orientation package.
- Completion of reading assignment for each week. The reading assignments for this course are demanding. Readings will be posted on the Moodle under the relevant week and it is the student's responsibility to track and download those readings.
- Active participation in class discussions and one short presentation to the class based on current events and/or current reading assignment-5%.
- Regular reading of one or more major international newspapers
 - Submission of three one page papers summarizing and commenting upon news that is relevant to the course -15% of final grade.
- Mid-term essay and short answers exam-30% of final grade
- Final term paper -50% of final grade

Syllabus Topics:

Studying Islam

- Albert Hourani (1991). *The History of the Arab Peoples*, pp. 1-21 & 54-71.
- Thomas Friedman (25 February, 2015). International New York Times, Opinions. http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/25/opinion/thomas-friedman-isis-heads-to-rome.html?_r=0
- Edward Said (1979). *Orientalism*, Introduction.
- Bernard Lewis (1993). *Islam and the West*, Chapter 1 (Europe and Islam), Chapter 6 (The Question of Orientalism).
- Mahmood Mamdani (September 2002). "Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: A Political Perspective on Culture and Terrorism," *American Anthropologist*, 104, 3, pp. 766-774.
- Gilbert Achcar (Winter 2004), Maxime Rodinson on Islamic "Fundamentalism: An Unpublished Interview with Gilbert Achcar," *Middle East Report* 233, Vol 34.
- Harry Oldmeadow, The Debate about "Orientalism", from *Journeys East: 20th Century Western Encounters with Eastern Religious Traditions* © 2004 World Wisdom, Inc Downloaded from www.worldwisdom.com/public/library/default.aspx
- Monsignor Lorenzo Albacete, Interview with Helen Whitney, Front Line producer, Winter 2002. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/faith/interviews/albacete.html>

Studying Islamic Fundamentalism

- Quinton Wiktorowicz (2006). *Anatomy of a Salafi Movement*, in *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, Vol. 29, pp. 207-239.
- Albert Bergesen, Ed. (2007). *The Sayyid Qutb Reader: Selected Writings on Politics, Religion and Society*. (Chapter 2 "Core Ideas" & Chapter 8 "Milestones")

Fundamentalist Movements and Nationalism in the Arab World

- Benedict Anderson (2006). *Imagined Communities*, Chapter 2.
- Bassam Tibi (1990). "The Simultaneity of the Unsimultaneous: Old Tribes and Imposed Nation-States in the Modern Middle East," in *Tribes and State Formation in the Middle East*, Philip S. Khoury and Joseph Kostiner, Eds. (1990), pp. 127-152.
- Albert Hourani (1990). "Conclusion: Tribes and States in Islamic History," in *Tribes and State Formation in the Middle East*, Philip S. Khoury and Joseph Kostiner, Eds. (1990) pp. 303-310.
- Rachid Al-Ghannouchi (2000). "Secularism in the Arab Maghreb," in *Islam and Secularism in the Middle East*, Azzam Tamimi & John Esposito, Eds.

The Muslim Brotherhood

- Gudrun Kraemer (2010). *Hassan Al Banna*, (Chapters 1 & 2) One World publishers.
- Richard Mitchell (1993) *The Society of the Muslim Brothers*, (selected readings) Oxford University Press.
- Samuel Helfont (2009). *Yusuf Al Qardawi*, Islam and Modernity. Chapter 2.
- Albert Bergesen, Ed. (2007). *The Sayyid Qutb Reader*. Chapters 2 & 3.

Wahabism and Al-Qaeda

- Abdel Bari Atwan (2008). *The Secret History of Al Qaeda*, Chapters 1, 2 & 5.
- Mohamad-Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou (2006). *Understanding Al Qaeda: The Transformation of War*. (Chapters 1 & 4)

Islamic Movements as Social Networks

- Janine A. Clark (2004). *Islam, Charity and Activism: Middle Class Networks and Social Welfare in Egypt, Jordan and Yemen*, Janine A. Clark, Indiana University Press. Chapter 1, Islamic Social Institutions, Social Movement Theory and the Middle Classes, pp. 1-4, Chapter 5, The Significance of Being Middle Class pp. 146-161.
- Martin Kramer (1996). *Hizbullah: The Calculus of Jihad in Fundamentalism and the State: Remaking Politics, Economics and Militance*. Martin E. Marty and R. Scott Appleby (Eds.). pp. 539-556.

Islamic Fundamentalism in Comparative Perspective

- Gabriel Almond, Scott Appleby & Emmanuel Sivan (2003). *Strong Religion*. University of Chicago Press. Chapter 1, "The Enclave Culture", pp. 23-89.
- Martin Marty & R. Scott Appleby (1993). *Fundamentalisms and the State: Remaking Politics, Economies, and Militance*. University of Chicago Press. John, H. Garvey, Chapter 2, "Introduction: Fundamentalism and Politics", pp. 13-27.

Islam and Modernity

- Dennis Overbye (October 30, 2001). "How Islam Won, and Lost the World Lead in Science," *New York Times Science Tuesday*.
- Samuel Helfont (2009). *Yusuf Al Qardawi, Islam and Modernity*. Moshe Dayan Center, Tel Aviv University. Chapter 2.
- Uriya Shavit, *Middle East Quarterly*, Fall 2007, "Should Muslims Integrate into the West?", pp. 13-21

Islam and Democracy

- Fatima Mernissi (2002). *Islam and Democracy: Fear of the Modern World*, (Selected Readings).
- Samuel Helfont (2009). *Yusuf Al Qardawi, Islam and Modernity*. Moshe Dayan Center, Tel Aviv University. Chapter 5.
- Uriya Shavit (2010). Is Shura a Muslim Form of Democracy? *Middle Eastern Studies* 46:3, pp. 349-374.

Women and Islamic Fundamentalism

- Fatima Mernissi (1982). *Beyond the Veil: Male-Female Dynamics in Modern Muslim Society*. (Selected Readings).
- Joseph, S. (1997). "The Public/Private-The Imagined Boundary in the Imagined

Nation/State/Community: The Lebanese Case." *Feminist Review*, No. 57 (Autumn), 73-92.

- Leila Ahmed (1982). "Feminism and Feminist Movements in the Middle East, a preliminary exploration: Turkey, Egypt, Algeria, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen," *Women's Studies International Forum*, Volume 5, Issue 2, pp. 153-168.
- Nawal El-Saadawi (1982). "Woman and Islam," *Women's Studies International Forum*, Volume 5, Issue 2, pp. 193-206.

Islamic Movements in the Palestinian Territories

- Shaul Mishal (Summer, 2003). "The Pragmatic Dimension of the Palestinian Hamas: A Network Perspective," *Armed Forces & Society*, Vol. 29, No. 4, pp. 569-589.
- Graham Usher (1993), *The Rise of Political Islam in the Occupied Territories*, (Selected Readings).

The Islamic Movement inside Israel

- Reuven Paz (Winter, 1990). "The Islamic Movement in Israel and the Municipal Elections of 1989," *The Jerusalem Quarterly*, #53, pp. 3-26.
- "The Islamic Movement Inside Israel, an Interview with Shaykh Ra'id Salah." *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 36, No. 2, Winter 2007, pp. 66-76
- Alisa Rubin Peled (Summer 2001). "Towards Autonomy? The Islamist Movement's Quest for Control of Islamic Institutions in Israel," *The Middle East Journal*, Vol. 3, pp. 378-398.