Political Islam

PLIT10089
Semester 1, Year 3

Course convenor: Dr Ewan Stein
Email: ewan.stein@ed.ac.uk
Chrystal Macmillan Building, Room 4.27
Guidance & Feedback Hours: Mondays 11.00 – 13.00

Location
Lectures: Thursdays 10:00 – 10.50
Room: 7 Bristo Square, Lecture Theatre 2

Course tutors:
Ms Maria D’Aria - Email: mdaria@exseed.ed.ac.uk
Guidance & Feedback: Room 5.16, Tuesday 2 – 3pm
Mr Sofiane Sahnoun - Email: ksahnoun@exseed.ed.ac.uk
Guidance & Feedback: Ground floor Café, CMB Thursdays 2pm - 3/4pm

Course secretary: Ms Claire Buchan
Email: claire.buchan@ed.ac.uk
Chrystal MacMillan Building
Undergraduate Teaching Office

Assessment Deadlines
• Tutorial Participation: Throughout
• Long essay: 12 noon Wednesday 02 November 2016
  • Exam: To be confirmed
**Aims and Objectives**

The rise of political Islam across the Middle East, and beyond, has been one of the most consequential developments in regional politics for at least the last 40 years, and has only grown in importance in the wake of the Arab uprisings that began in late 2010. In recent years violent Islamism, such as that of the Islamic State, has grabbed the headlines, but political Islam is a diverse and multifaceted phenomenon, most of whose adherents do not pursue violent strategies. This course examines political Islam, or 'Islamism', as a complex and contested domestic, international and transnational phenomenon. It introduces major Islamist trends in their historical and ideological aspects, before focusing more closely on key themes as they have related to political Islam, including gender, violence, international relations, and sectarianism.
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Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, the students should have a clear understanding of the main trends of political Islam in the modern Middle East and Islamist approaches to key political and social issues, including international relations, gender, and democracy. They should be able to apply theoretical tools where appropriate and critically assess diverse scholarly approaches to the subject of political Islam.

Teaching Methods
The course involves one weekly lecture and a tutorial (starting in week 2). Attendance at tutorials is mandatory and students are expected to have completed all required readings in advance in order to participate in the discussion. A vast literature on political Islam, as well as on the politics and history of the Middle East, exists and students are strongly encouraged to supplement the required readings with their own research in order to gain a more thorough appreciation of Islamism’s political and historical contexts.

Assessment
Students will be assessed by:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Word count limit</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Submission date</th>
<th>Return of feedback</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial participation</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>End of semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>1500-1600 words max (excluding bibliography)*</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>02/11/16 (all coursework is due at 12 noon on the date of submission)</td>
<td>23/11/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Exam dates are set by Student Administration. Exam diet information can be found at: <a href="http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-administration/exams/exam-diets">http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-administration/exams/exam-diets</a>. Students are responsible for knowing the time, date and location of their exams.</td>
<td>Dates will be published closer to the time. Please also see Exam feedback information on our webpages <a href="#">Exam feedback information in appendix 2</a></td>
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*Note: All coursework is submitted electronically through ELMA. Please read the School Policies and Coursework Submission Procedures which you will find [here](#).
Essay Questions

Please choose one of the questions below for your essay.

1. The goals and strategies of the Muslim Brotherhood have changed little since it was established in 1928. Do you agree?
2. The Iranian Revolution raised fears that Islamic revolutions would spread across the region. Why do you think this did not happen?
3. To what extent, if at all, is the Islamic State (ISIS, ISIL, Da’esh) different from other examples of militant Islamism?
4. The Arab uprisings that began in 2010 opened up unprecedented opportunities for Islamist parties and movements. How successful do you think they have been in capitalising on them? Illustrate your answer with reference to at least two Middle Eastern states.
5. Islamists are revolutionaries fighting for freedom in an unjust world. Would you agree with this line of argument?
6. Is political Islam capable of delivering a better life for women in the Middle East?
7. Can Islamists be democratic? Illustrate your answer with reference to concrete examples of Islamist participation in politics.
8. Why do you think the violence in Syria and/or Iraq has taken such a strong sectarian turn?
9. Is it analytically useful to group organisations like Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State together with Hizbullah and Hamas as ‘violent Islamists.’?

Assessment Criteria

The essay will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Development and coherence of arguments
- Use of supporting evidence
- Demonstration of an advanced and critical understanding of relevant key debates examined on the course.
- Degree of reflexivity and critical thinking in relation to arguments and evidence
- Drawing together major arguments by way of conclusion in relation to the assignment
- Formal presentation of report: correct referencing and quoting; spelling, grammar and style; layout and visual presentation.

Tutorial participation will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Attendance
- Participation, including participation in discussion, evidence of having read the week’s readings.
- Quality of Contribution, including showing a level of critical thinking and understanding, as well as collegial and productive responses to other people’s remarks.

Please refer to the assessment and submission procedure information on our webpages which you will find in appendix 2.

Attendance

Attendance and participation in the lectures and tutorials are essential for developing an understanding of the topics.
Communications and Feedback

You are strongly encouraged to use email for routine communication with lecturers. We shall also use email to communicate with you, e.g., to assign readings for the second hour of each class. All students are provided with email addresses on the university system, if you are not sure of your address, which is based on your matric number, check your EUCLID database entry using the Student Portal.

This is the ONLY email address we shall use to communicate with you. Please note that we will NOT use ‘private’ email addresses such as yahoo or hotmail; it is therefore essential that you check your university email regularly, preferably each day.

Readings and Resource List

All of the required readings are available electronically via the library website, either as e-books or articles. If you have difficulty accessing them please alert the course organiser. You will also find a wealth of readings online. The latter should be treated with caution and used critically. One goal of the course is to enable students to evaluate often highly polemical reportage, and scholarship, on the topic of political Islam. Readings should always be subjected to critical analysis and not used as straightforward sources of facts. This applies to tutorial discussions, essays and exams. The best way to develop critical insight is to read widely on a topic to gain an appreciation of the variety of perspectives available. Almost all aspects of Islamism are hotly debated and the course does not aspire to provide the ‘right’ answer to the manifold questions raised. Many viewpoints and interpretations are valid, so long as they are backed up by critically evaluated sources.
### Lecture Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>22 September</td>
<td>Conceptual and Historical Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>29 September</td>
<td>The Muslim Brotherhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>6 October</td>
<td>The Iranian Revolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>13 October</td>
<td>Jihadism and Salafism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>20 October</td>
<td>The Arab Uprisings and Beyond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>27 October</td>
<td>Islamism and International Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>3 November</td>
<td>Islamism and Gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10 November</td>
<td>Islamism, Democracy and Social Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>17 November</td>
<td>Sectarianism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>24 November</td>
<td>Violence and Revolution</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reading Week & Office Drop-in Session (re: exam prep)
Course Lectures and Readings

1. Conceptual and Historical Introduction

Required readings


Additional readings


Ismail, Salwa. Rethinking Islamist Politics: Culture, the State and Islamism. I.B.Tauris, 2006.


Roundtable: ‘How do scholars study Islamist movements and how should we be studying them?, International Journal of Middle East Studies. 43. No. 1. pp.133-146. February 2011

PART ONE: Contemporary trends and movements

2. The Muslim Brotherhood

Required readings


Additional readings


Johnston, David L. “Hassan al-Hudaybi and the Muslim Brotherhood: Can Islamic
Fundamentalism Eschew the Islamic State?” *Comparative Islamic Studies* 3, no. 1 (June 2007): 39-56.


Morsy, Ahmed, ‘Morsi’s Un-Revolutionary Foreign Policy’, *Middle East Institute* <http://www.mei.edu/content/morsi%E2%80%99s-un-revolutionary-foreign-policy>


**3. The Iranian Revolution**

**Required readings**

Ansari, Ali M. *The Politics of Nationalism in Modern Iran*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012. (Chapter 4)

Milani, Abbas, ‘Iran’s Paradoxical Regime’, *Journal of Democracy*, 26, 52

**Additional readings**


Moghadam, Dr Valentine M. *Modernizing Women: Gender and Social Change in the Middle East*. Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2003. (Chapter 6)


4. Jihadism and Salafism

**Required readings**


**Additional readings**


Qutb, Sayyid. Milestones. Also translated as Signposts on the Road. Widely available online.


5. The Arab Uprisings and Beyond

**Required readings**


**Additional readings**


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**Part Two: Themes**

**6. International Relations**

**Essential readings**


**Additional readings**


8. Gender

**Essential readings**


**Additional readings**


Moghadam, Dr Valentine M. *Modernizing Women: Gender and Social Change in the Middle East*. Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2003. (Chapter 6)


7. Democracy and social justice


Additional Readings


Çınar, Alev. “The Justice And Development Party: Turkey’s Experience With Islam,


Haynes, Jeffrey “Politics, identity and religious nationalism in Turkey: from Ataturk to the AKP,” *Australian Journal of International Affairs* 64, no. 3 (June 2010): 312-327.


democracy/

9. Sectarianism

Essential readings


Additional Readings

Wagemakers, Joas. ‘Framing the “Threat to Islam”: Al-wala’ wa Al-bará’ in Salafi Discourse’. *Arab Studies Quarterly* (Fall 2008).


10. Violence and Revolution

**Required readings**


**Additional readings**


Friis, Simone Molin. “‘Beyond Anything We Have Ever Seen’: Beheading Videos and the Visibility of Violence in the War against ISIS.” *International Affairs* 91, no. 4 (2015): 725–46.

Gauvain, Richard. ‘Salafism in Modern Egypt: Panacea or Pest?’ *Political Theology* 11, no. 6 (December 2010): 802–825.


Meijer, Roel “The ‘cycle of contention’ and the limits of terrorism in Saudi Arabia” in Aarts,


Appendix 1 – General Information

Students with Disabilities

The School welcomes disabled students with disabilities (including those with specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia) and is working to make all its courses as accessible as possible. If you have a disability special needs which means that you may require adjustments to be made to ensure access to lectures, tutorials or exams, or any other aspect of your studies, you can discuss these with your Student Support Officer or Personal Tutor who will advise on the appropriate procedures.

You can also contact the Student Disability Service, based on the University of Edinburgh, Third Floor, Main Library, You can find their details as well as information on all of the support they can offer at: http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-disability-service

Learning Resources for Undergraduates

The Study Development Team at the Institute for Academic Development (IAD) provides resources and workshops aimed at helping all students to enhance their learning skills and develop effective study techniques. Resources and workshops cover a range of topics, such as managing your own learning, reading, note-making, essay and report writing, exam preparation and exam techniques.

The study development resources are housed on ‘LearnBetter’ (undergraduate), part of Learn, the University’s virtual learning environment. Follow the link from the IAD Study Development web page to enrol: www.ed.ac.uk/iad/undergraduates

Workshops are interactive: they will give you the chance to take part in activities, have discussions, exchange strategies, share ideas and ask questions. They are 90 minutes long and held on Wednesday afternoons at 1.30pm or 3.30pm. The schedule is available from the IAD Undergraduate web page (see above).

Workshops are open to all undergraduates but you need to book in advance, using the MyEd booking system. Each workshop opens for booking two weeks before the date of the workshop itself. If you book and then cannot attend, please cancel in advance through MyEd so that another student can have your place. (To be fair to all students, anyone who persistently books on workshops and fails to attend may be barred from signing up for future events).

Study Development Advisors are also available for an individual consultation if you have specific questions about your own approach to studying, working more effectively, strategies for improving your learning and your academic work. Please note, however, that Study Development Advisors are not subject specialists so they cannot comment on the content of your work. They also do not check or proof read students' work.

To make an appointment with a Study Development Advisor, email iad.study@ed.ac.uk (For support with English Language, you should contact the English Language Teaching Centre).
Discussing Sensitive Topics

The discipline of Political Islam addresses a number of topics that some might find sensitive or, in some cases, distressing. You should read this Course Guide carefully and if there are any topics that you may feel distressed by you should seek advice from the course convenor and/or your Personal Tutor.

For more general issues you may consider seeking the advice of the Student Counselling Service, http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-counselling

Guide to Using LEARN for Online Tutorial Sign-Up

The following is a guide to using LEARN to sign up for your tutorial. If you have any problems using the LEARN sign up, please contact the course secretary by email (lisa.kilcullen@ed.ac.uk).

Tutorial sign up will open up after the first lecture ends on Thursday 22nd September 2016 and will close on Monday 26 September 2016.

**Step 1 – Accessing LEARN course pages**
Access to LEARN is through the MyEd Portal. You will be given a log-in and password during Freshers’ Week. Once you are logged into MyEd, you should see a tab called ‘Courses’ which will list the active LEARN pages for your courses under ‘myLEARN’.

**Step 2 – Welcome to LEARN**
Once you have clicked on the relevant course from the list, you will see the Course Content page. There will be icons for the different resources available, including one called ‘Tutorial Sign Up’. Please take note of any instructions there.

**Step 3 – Signing up for your Tutorial**
Clicking on Tutorial Sign Up will take you to the sign up page where all the available tutorial groups are listed along with the running time and location.

Once you have selected the group you would like to attend, click on the ‘Sign up’ button. A confirmation screen will display.

**IMPORTANT:** If you change your mind after having chosen a tutorial you cannot go back and change it and you will need to email the course secretary. Reassignments once tutorials are full or after the sign-up period has closed will only be made in exceptional circumstances.

Tutorials have restricted numbers and it is important to sign up as soon as possible. The tutorial sign up will only be available until Monday 26th September 2016 so that everyone is registered to a group ahead of tutorials commencing in Week 2. If you have not yet signed up for a tutorial by this time you will be automatically assigned to a group which you will be expected to attend.

**External Examiner**
The External Examiner for the Political Islam course is: TBC
Appendix 2 - Course Work Submission and Penalties

Penalties that can be applied to your work and how to avoid them.

There are three types of penalties that can be applied to your course work and these are listed below. Students must read the full description on each of these at: http://www.sps.ed.ac.uk/undergrad/current_students/teaching_and_learning/assessment_and_regulations/coursework_penalties

Make sure you are aware of each of these penalties and know how to avoid them. Students are responsible for taking the time to read guidance and for ensuring their coursework submissions comply with guidance.

- **Incorrect submission Penalty**
  When a piece of coursework is submitted to our Electronic Submission System (ELMA) that does not comply with our submission guidance (wrong format, incorrect document, no cover sheet etc.) a penalty of 5 marks will be applied to students work.

- **Lateness Penalty**
  If you miss the submission deadline for any piece of assessed work 5 marks will be deducted for each calendar day that work is late, up to a maximum of seven calendar days (35 marks). Thereafter, a mark of zero will be recorded. There is no grace period for lateness and penalties begin to apply immediately following the deadline.

- **Word Count Penalty**
  The penalty for excessive word length in coursework is one mark deducted for each additional 20 words over the limit. Word limits vary across subject areas and submissions, so check your course handbook. Make sure you know what is and what is not included in the word count. Again, check the course handbook for this information. You will not be penalised for submitting work below the word limit. However, you should note that shorter essays are unlikely to achieve the required depth and that this will be reflected in your mark.
ELMA: Submission and Return of Coursework

Coursework is submitted online using our electronic submission system, ELMA. You will not be required to submit a paper copy of your work.

Marked coursework, grades and feedback will be returned to you via ELMA. You will not receive a paper copy of your marked course work or feedback.

For details of how to submit your course work to ELMA, please see our webpages here. Remember, there is a 5 mark incorrect submission penalty, so read the guidance carefully and follow it to avoid receiving this.

Extensions: New policy-applicable for years 1 - 4

From September 2016, there will be a new extensions policy that applies to all courses in the school from years one to four.

If you have good reason for not meeting a coursework deadline, you may request an extension. Before you request an extension, make sure you have read all the guidance on our webpages and take note of the key points below. You will also be able to access the online extension request form through our webpages.

- Extensions are granted for 7 calendar days.
- Extension requests must be submitted no later than 24 hours before the coursework deadline.
- If you miss the deadline for requesting an extension for a valid reason, you should submit your coursework as soon as you are able, and apply for Special Circumstances to disregard penalties for late submission. You should also contact your Student Support Officer or Personal Tutor and make them aware of your situation.
- If you have a valid reason and require an extension of more than 7 calendar days, you should submit your coursework as soon as you are able, and apply for Special Circumstances to disregard penalties for late submission. You should also contact your Student Support Officer or Personal Tutor and make them aware of your situation.
- If you have a Learning Profile from the Disability Service allowing you potential for flexibility over deadlines, you must still make an extension request for this to be taken into account.
Exam Feedback and Viewing Exam Scripts:
General exam feedback will be provided for all courses with an examination. General feedback will be uploaded to the relevant course learn page within 24 hours of the overall marks for the course being returned to Students.

Students who sit the exam will also receive individual feedback. The relevant Course Secretary will contact students to let them know when this is available and how to access it.

If students wish to view their scripts for any reason, they must contact the relevant Course Secretary via email to arrange this.

Plagiarism Guidance for Students: Avoiding Plagiarism
Material you submit for assessment, such as your essays, must be your own work. You can, and should, draw upon published work, ideas from lectures and class discussions, and (if appropriate) even upon discussions with other students, but you must always make clear that you are doing so. **Passing off anyone else’s work** (including another student’s work or material from the Web or a published author) as your own is plagiarism and will be punished severely.

When you upload your work to ELMA you will be asked to check a box to confirm the work is your own. All submissions will be run through ‘Turnitin’, our plagiarism detection software. Turnitin compares every essay against a constantly-updated database, which highlights all plagiarised work. Assessed work that contains plagiarised material will be awarded a mark of zero, and serious cases of plagiarism will also be reported to the College Academic Misconduct officer. In either case, the actions taken will be noted permanently on the student’s record. For further details on plagiarism see the Academic Services’ website:

http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/academic-services/students/undergraduate/discipline/plagiarism

Data Protection Guidance for Students
In most circumstances, students are responsible for ensuring that their work with information about living, identifiable individuals complies with the requirements of the Data Protection Act. The document, **Personal DataProcessed by Students**, provides an explanation of why this is the case. It can be found, with advice on data protection compliance and ethical best practice in the handling of information about living, identifiable individuals, on the Records Management section of the University website at:

http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/records-management-section/data-protection/guidance-policies/dpforstudents