

Modern Islam
(REL 370, S-Course)

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Office hours: TR 9:00-10:00, 1:00-2:00; or by appointment

Fall 2009
TR 2:20-3:50
EM 211

Description

This course examines the developments, issues, events and ideas that have shaped modern Muslim thought and societies. We will start with an exploration of modernity itself, the way it was first experienced by Muslims, and its material and intellectual impact on Muslim societies. We will spend much of our time reading Muslim responses to modernity/modernization as we try to understand Muslim self-conscious attempts to come to terms with developments that often seem beyond their control. (It should be noted that this is not a unique experience of modernity/modernization.) Many observers, both Muslim and non-Muslim, have characterized modern Islam as in a state of crisis. This assessment is based, in part, on a historical shift in the fortunes of the Islamic world after Europe's rise and expansion following the Enlightenment and Industrial Revolution. It is also based on an assumption that modernity and modernization are directly linked to the West, that modernization is a form of Westernization. We will discuss and debate this assumption over the course of the semester as we study modernity and its impact on Muslim societies. We will also debate the West's ongoing self-understanding of its own modernization and how this has influenced the study of Islam.

Class Expectations

As a 300-level S-seminar, this course will approach its subject material primarily through discussion. This means that each student is responsible for the upkeep and the success of the class. **For each class meeting, students must read the assigned materials, reflect upon them, and identify a minimum of three ideas/quotes/questions that they believe we should discuss.** Everyone in the class is a discussant, including myself. If it seems that students are falling into patterns of silence, I will call on individuals to reinvigorate the discussion. And given the expectation cited above, individuals will always have something to say!! What we are aiming for is informed discussion (that is, discussion based on the readings and reflection), not talking for the sake of talking. I will distinguish between quality and quantity when I calculate the participation grade. **Note: A significant portion of your grade depends on participation. Failure to participate will result in a lowered final grade.** If you have questions about your participation grade, don't hesitate to contact me. Finally, because your participation is so essential for the seminar style of learning, any unexcused absences, especially on your Presentation Day, will negatively impact your grade. I can overlook two "cuts," but after that each absence will potentially deduct two percentage points from your final grade.

Grading

Two essay papers	40% (2 x 20%)
Midterm	20%
Research project	20%
Participation	20%

S-Certification

Since this is an S-course, you will receive not only a regular grade but also a separate evaluation of your competence in oral communication. To earn S-certification, you must demonstrate a consistent ability to communicate your ideas and those of others in a clear, concise manner. 20% of your grade is based on assignments—daily discussion and presentation—that require some form of oral communication. Some of these assignments are ongoing and repetitive; others are one-time opportunities. All require preparation, but the latter demand it. I will be glad to meet with you individually or as a group to help you think through these assignments. You should also take advantage of the tutorial assistance available at the S-Center (1st floor Asbury Hall). I will alert you as early as possible if I believe that you are in danger of not earning your S-certification.

Academic Integrity Policy

I will observe DePauw's policy on academic integrity (i.e., cheating and plagiarism), as outlined in the *Student Handbook*. We will review this issue, along with examples, at the beginning of the semester, but I encourage you to read the policy for yourself.

Required Reading

Abdo, Genieevve. *No God But God* (Oxford)
Ahmad, Jalal Al-I. *Occidentosis* (Mizan)
Ali, Kecia. *Sexual Ethics and Islam* (Oneworld)
Amin, Qasim. *The Liberation of Women* (American University in Cairo)
Devji, Faisal. *Landscapes of the Jihad* (Cornell)
Qutb, Sayyid. *Milestones* (American Trust Publications)
Roy, Olivier. *Secularism Confronts Islam* (Columbia)

Moodle list

Schedule of Classes and Daily Assignments

8/27 Introduction

Modernity, Religion and Development

- 9/1 Modernity and Tradition
"Modernity," *Encyclopedia of Religion* Moodle
Robert Bellah, "Islamic Tradition and the Problems of Modernization" Moodle
- 9/3 Historical and Social Realities of Modernization

Dankwart Rustow, "The Political Impact of the West" Moodle
Morroe Berger, "Economic and Social Change" Moodle

Reformers and Modernizers

- 9/8 Early Voices
Jamal al-Din al-Afghani, "An Islamic Response to Imperialism" and "Islamic Solidarity" Moodle
Muhammad 'Abduh, "Islam, Reason, and Civilization" Moodle
Ahmad Khan, "India and English Government" and "Islam: The Religion of Reason and Nature" Moodle
Chiragh 'Ali, "Islam and Change" Moodle
- 9/10 Women and Progress
Qasim Amin, ix-xiii, 1-61
- 9/15 Women and Progress
Qasim Amin, 62-106, 115-118, (skim) 179-198
** Essay Assignment
- 9/17 Islam and the Modern State
'Ali Abd al-Raziq, "The Caliphate and the Basis of Power" Moodle
'Abd al-Rahman al-Bazzaz, "Islam and Arab Nationalism" Moodle
Abu-l-'Ala Mawdudi, "Nationalism and Islam" Moodle
- 9/22 Video
- 9/24 Presentation Day

Critical Response to the West and Western Modernity

- 9/29 Islam as Cultural Defense
Jalal Al-I Ahmad, 7-63
- 10/1 Islam as Cultural Defense
Jalal Al-I Ahmad, 64-137
- 10/6 Radical Islamism
Sayyid Qutb, "Introduction," chapters 1-5
- 10/8 Radical Islamism
Sayyid Qutb, chapters 6-12
- 10/13 Presentation Day
- 10/15 Midterm

10/20, Fall Break
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Islam(ism) from Below in Egypt

10/27 Video

10/29 Islam in the Streets
Geneive Abdo, chapters 1-4

11/3 Official and Popular Islam
Geneive Abdo, chapters 5-8

(Re-) Interpreting Tradition: Women and Sexuality

11/5 Marriage and Divorce
Kecia Ali, "Introduction," chapters 1-2

11/10 Slavery and Illicit Sex
Kecia Ali, chapters 3-5

11/12 Circumcision, Female/Male Agency, Aishah
Kecia Ali, chapters 6-9

** Essay Assignment

Global Transformations

11/17 The New Jihad
Faisal Devji, "Preface," chapters 1-3

11/19 The New Jihad
Faisal Devji, chapters 4-6

11/24 Study Day

11/25 Thanksgiving Recess

12/1 Islam in the Secular West
Olivier Roy, "Preface," chapters 1-2

12/3 Islam in the Secular West
Olivier Roy, chapters 3-4

12/8 Presentation Day

12/10 Wrap-up

12/15 Final Examination (1:00-4:00)

** Research papers due