

Bowdoin College
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Dept. of Government and Legal Studies
Office Hours M 9:30am - 11:30am
MW 2:50-4:15pm
Lecture Hall: Adams 406

Islam and Politics - Government 2690

Fall 2018

Analyzing the intersection of politics and multiple expressions of Islam, in both state governments and transnational movements, this is a study of Islam as a social, ethical and political force in the modern era. It offers a basic introduction to Muslim history and the Islamic religion, explores various Islamic social and political movements, analyzes contending understandings of the interaction between politics and Islam, as well as investigating the tensions between the Islamic and western political traditions, including democracy and Islam. Relying on texts from influential revolutionaries such as Qutb and Khomeini, as well as perspectives on political Islam from academic scholars, it explores the heart of politics, society and religion in the modern Muslim world.

Fulfillment of the International Perspectives (IP) Distribution Requirement: *Islam and Politics* satisfies the IP distribution requirement required for a degree from Bowdoin. IP courses introduce students to perspectives beyond those commonly found in the United States. *Islam and Politics* provides critical tools enabling students to analyze Islamic states and societies, as well as to use this vantage point to appreciate western societies and political systems in new ways.

Reading

Read the international/world section of one or more of the following papers, everyday.

- The Wall Street Journal, www.wsj.com
- The Economist, www.economist.com
- The New York Times, www.nytimes.com
- The BBC, www.bbc.com/news
- The Guardian, www.guardiannews.com
- Al-Jazeera, www.aljazeera.com

There are two required books for the class:

1. Roxanne L. Euben and Muhammad Qasim Zaman. 2009. *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
2. Peter Mandaville. 2014. *Islam and Politics*. 2nd Ed. New York: Routledge.

A third book is recommended, but not required.

3. Marjane Satrapi. 2003. *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*. Pantheon Books.

Other assigned readings are available on Blackboard. Readings are **due on the day** they are assigned on this syllabus.

Exams, Papers and Grading

These assignments provide ways for me to assess your understanding of key concepts presented in the readings and lectures. There is **positively no dishonesty** or cheating tolerated. Contact me if emergencies arise that affect your work. Please review the honor code of the college: www.bowdoin.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook/college-policies/

My **late policy** is to deduct 1/2 a letter grade from the assignment for each 24 hour period the assignment is late. For example, if you hand in a paper 23 hours late and the paper is a B+, it will be recorded as a B. If that paper is handed in 47 hours late, the grade will be a B- and so on. Furthermore, to ensure the classroom remains conducive to learning, **no laptops**, tablets or phones are allowed. Please turn the sound off, and store these items in your bag.

1. Blackboard Responses on Readings (15%)
In addition to your assigned week to lead the online discussion, two Blackboard postings are due before October 17 and the last one before November 19
2. In-Class Midterm Exam – October 17 (30%)
3. Take Home Essay – November 19 (25%)
4. Final Paper – December 12, 2pm (30%)

Assignment Calendar

August 29: Introduction

September 3: Ways of Thinking About Islam in the Political World

- Mandaville. Chapter 1 (pp. 1-27)

September 5: Analyzing Islam

- Clifford Geertz, 1968. "Two Countries, Two Cultures." *Islam Observed*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press (pp.1-22)
- Mandaville. Chapter 2 (pp. 28-63)

September 10: Introduction to Islamist Political Thought

- Euben and Zaman. Chapter 1, Introduction (pp. 1-46)

September 12: Orientalism

- Edward Said. 1978. "Introduction." *Orientalism*. New York: Pantheon, (pp. 1-28)
- Anisa Mehdi, "How the Media Marginalizes Muslims," February 13, 2016. STRATFOR.

September 17: States and Islamist Political Thought

- Mandaville. (Parts of) Chapter 3 & 5 (pp. 64-97, 229-231)

September 19: Sayyid Abu'l-A'la Mawdudi

- Euben and Zaman. Chapter 3 (pp. 79–106)

September 24: Hasan al-Banna

- Euben and Zaman. Chapter 2 (pp. 49-78)

September 26: Sayyid Qutb

- Euben and Zaman. Chapter 5 (pp. 129-152)
- Mandaville. (Part of) Chapter 3 (pp. 97-105)

October 1: Qutb and Modernity

- Roxanne Euben. 1999. "Chapter Three: A View From the Other Side: The Political Theory of Sayyid Qutb." *Enemy in the Mirror*. Princeton. (pp. 49-92)

October 3: Qutb and Modernity

- Roxanne Euben. 1999. "Conclusion: Cultural Syncretism and Multiple Modernities." *Enemy in the Mirror*. Princeton. (pp. 154-167)
- Mandaville. (Part of) Chapter 3 (pp. 105–120)

October 8: Fall Break

October 10: Egypt

- Mandaville. (Part of) Chapter 4 (pp. 121-159)
- “The Egyptian Revolution: An Interactive Timeline,” Watson Institute for International Studies, Brown University. Available: <http://goo.gl/NWmcHB>

October 15: Egypt

- Tarek Masoud. 2008. “Islamist Parties: Are They Democrats? Does it Matter?” *Journal of Democracy*.
- Mona El-Ghobashy. 2005. “The Metamorphosis of the Egyptian Muslim Brothers,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 37, No. 3 (pp. 373-395)

October 17: **Midterm Exam**

October 22: Iran

- [Recommended] Marjane Satrapi. *Persepolis*

October 24: Iran

- Mandaville. (Parts of) Chapter 5 (pp. 203-207, 245–269)

October 29: Iran

- Euben and Zaman. Chapter 6 (pp. 155-180)
- Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, “To the Youth in Europe and North America,” January 21, 2016.

October 31: Saudi Arabia

- Mandaville. (Part of) Chapter 5 (pp. 207-229)
- Stéphane Lacroix. 2011. “Is Saudi Arabia Immune?” *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 22, no. 4 (pp. 48-59)

November 5: Gender and Islam in Politics

- Mandaville. (Parts of) Chapter 6 (pp. 304-327)
- Lila Abu-Lughod. 2002. “Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and Its Others,” *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 104, No. 3. (pp. 783-790)

November 7: Gender, Sexuality and Islam in Politics

- Euben and Zaman. Chapters 10 and 12 (pp. 249-274, 302-317)
- Brian Whitaker, "Everything you Need to Know about Being Gay in Muslim Countries," *The Guardian*, June 21, 2016.

November 12: No Class - *Professor at an Academic Conference*
[Take Home Exam Distributed via E-mail]

November 14: Democracy and Islam

- Euben and Zaman. Chapter 9 (pp. 224-245)

November 19: Syria **[Take Home Exam Collected]**

- Mandaville. (Part of) Chapters 6 (pp. 302-304)

November 21: *Happy Thanksgiving*
No Readings Due

November 26: Hamas

- Mandaville. (Parts of) Chapter 6 (pp. 270-295)
- Euben and Zaman. Chapter 15 (pp. 356-386)

November 28: Jihad

- Mandaville. Chapter 7 (pp. 328-344)
- Euben and Zaman. Chapter 13 (pp. 321-343)

December 3: Osama bin Laden

- Mandaville. Chapter 7 (pp. 344-367)
- Euben and Zaman. Chapter 18 (pp. 425-459)

December 5: "Final Instructions"

- Euben and Zaman. Chapter 19 (pp. 460-471)
- Hasnain Kazim, "Interview with an Islamic State Recruiter 'Democracy Is For Infidels,'" *Der Spiegel*, October 28, 2014

Final Paper Due: December 12 – 2p