American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Security and Global Studies
RELS533

Islam

Credit Hours:
Length of Course: Weeks

Prerequisite: NSEC500

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Instructor Information

Instructor Name: APUS Faculty

Course Description (Catalog)

This course will enable students to put the contemporary Islamist challenge to the West into historical, political, and cultural context and to understand Islam and the Islamic world more broadly. It does not focus on Islamism specifically, but does include it. The breadth of the

course content reflects the inconsistent and uncertain usage of the term Islam. Strictly defined, Islam refers only to the religion founded by Muhammad. It is not a political, ethnic, geographic or cultural term any more (or less) than Christianity is. The central theme of the course will be to address the question of whether the relationship of theology to polity within Islamic societies is unique to that religious tradition.

Course Scope

As a research seminar, this course focuses on specialized area knowledge and sources in the field. Students will conduct research in preparation for the Capstone project in the Graduate program and will complete a research design statement, a literature review, a preliminary draft, and a final research paper. The readings and research cover analyses of key factors and actors that shape the Muslim world.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

CO 1: Analyze and discuss formation and growth of Islam.
CO-2: Explore and analyze sectarianism in Islam.
CO-3: Identify and analyze the political developments in Islamic history
CO-4: Identify and assess the rise of Shi'ism and concepts of jihad.
CO-5: Evaluate compatibility of Islam and modernity.
CO-6: Analyze feminism, the role of women, and family in modern Muslim communities.
CO-7: Analyze Islam in Central Asia, South Asia, and other areas beyond the Middle East.
CO-8: Research, construct, and present a persuasive written analysis relevant to this course.

These course objectives harmonize with the Degree Program Objectives, which require graduates to:

- Construct and criticize the theory and politics of conflict, war, diplomatic relations, and the evolving nature of the international system.
- Provide students with a research-active teaching environment to provide grounding in the study of international relations including its political, social, and economic aspects.
- Assess how state, non-state, and supra-national actors behave and interact through a dynamic appreciation of different levels of analysis.
- Critique the theories of international relations, the heritage and development of the discipline, its major debates, its inherent nature as an interdisciplinary study, and a critical appreciation of the essentially contested nature of politics in general, and international relations in particular.
- Evaluate the nature and distribution of power in the international systems, the problems of political order and the social economic, historical and cultural context within which international actors operate.
- Assess the current challenges to international order, cooperation, identity, social formations, and global issues, and possible strategies to address them.
- Evaluate the changing role of the state in the context of globalization and regional integration and the implications for international peace and security.

Course Delivery Method

This course, delivered via distance learning, will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET and include all written assignments, examinations, and research papers submitted for grading. Weekly Forum questions (accomplished in groups in a Forum) require an initial

response by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET, with all other required responses due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET. The assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

Course Resources

Required Course Textbooks

Berkey, Jonathan P.	The Formation of Islam: Religion and Society in the Near East, 600-1800. E-book available in the APUS Online Library.	Cambridge University Press, 2008

This book is available electronically in the online library via the classroom.

Required Readings

Other readings are available electronically within the classroom.

Additional Resources and Web Sites

Videos and web sites are available within the classroom and through the university electronic library.

Evaluation Procedures

The course grade is based on the following assessments:

Discussion Forums – 30 percent

Discussion questions will be provided and posts should reflect an assimilation of the readings and respond to the assigned topic(s). Students are required to provide a substantive initial post by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET and respond to two or more classmates by Sunday 11:55 pm ET. Forum posts are graded on timeliness, relevance, knowledge of the weekly readings, and the quality of original ideas.

Research Question, Purpose Statement, and Citation Format Exercise – 20 percent

The components of this assignment include a research question and a purpose and design statement. It must contain at least eight sources, at least six of which must be peer-reviewed. The specific research question should relate to a topic covered in the course. Length: 8 pp.

Literature Review—20 percent

This document contains an annotated summary of the major sources that will be used in the research paper, all of which must be peer-reviewed articles or scholarly texts. Students will identify the source, offer a short synopsis of its main argument, and offer a statement of relevance to the research project. Length: 8 pp.

Final Paper—30 percent

This is the final paper assignment of the course. It must contain citations in formal style as well as a bibliography. Length: 15 pp.

ASSIGNMENT	Percentage
Research Design Assignment	20 percent
Literature Review Assignment	20 percent
Forum Discussions	30 percent
Research Paper	30 percent
TOTAL	100 percent

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8 – Week Course Outline

Please see the Student Handbook to reference the University's grading scale.

Week	Topic	Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes	Readings	Assignments
1	Introductions and Foundations of Islam	CO-1: Analyze and discuss the formation and growth of Islam LO-1: Read about the Quran and methods of understanding the text LO-2: Analyze the formation of Islam and its historical context	Berkey (2009) *Part I: 1-50* Sells (2007) *Introduction*	Week One Forum ***Discussion Forum 1: Introductions*** ***Discussion Forum 2: Ideas about Islam*** Due Thursday 11:55pm; Responses due Sunday 11:55pm (all times EDT) Lesson Notes Weekly Readings
2	Out of Arabia: The Expansion of Islam	CO-1: Analyze and discuss the formation and growth of Islam LO-1: Identify the historical circumstances under which Islam spread LO-2: Analyze the spread of Islam LO-3: Identify and explore a topic for research	Berkey (2009) *Part II: 55-102* Silverstein (2010) *Chapter 1*	Week Two Forum ***Discussion Forum:*** ***Research Forum: What's your topic?*** Due Thursday 11:55pm; Responses due Sunday 11:55pm Lesson Notes Weekly Readings

3	Islam, Anti-Colonialism, and Nationalism	CO-3: Identify and analyze the political developments in Islamic history LO -1: Examine how the end of colonization in the Middle East and North Africa affected Islam LO-2: Analyze the emergence of Islamist movements in the 20th century LO-3: Design a research method for the final paper	Berkey (2009) *Epilogue 261-269* Zubaida (2010) *Chapter 6: Islam and nationalism*	Week Three Forum: ***Discussion Forum:*** Due Thursday 11:55pm; Responses due Sunday 11:55pm Assignment ***Assignment 1: Research Design*** Due Sunday 11:55pm Lesson Notes Weekly Readings
4	Shiism and Sectarianism	CO-2: Identify and assess the rise of Shiism and concepts of jihad LO-1: Identify what defines Shiism LO-2: Analyze various definitions of jihad and their contexts LO-3: Critique and analyze a research source	Akhbarzadeh (2007) Blanchard (2008 and 2010) Mamdani (2004)	Week Four Forum ***Discussion Forum:*** ***Research Forum: Engaging your sources*** Due Thursday 11:55pm; Responses due Sunday 11:55pm. Lesson Notes Weekly Readings
5	Political Islam	CO-3: Identify and analyze the political developments in	Ayoob (2007) *Chapter 1*	Week Five Forum ***Discussion Forum:***

		Islamic history LO-1: Identify the definitions of political Islam LO-2: Analyze the role of political Islam in the modern world LO-3: Construct a review of literature on a research topic	Hamid (2007) Mostaram (2009) Ottaway and Hamzawy (2008)	Assignment ***Assignment 2: Literature Review*** Due Sunday 11:55pm Lesson Notes Weekly Readings
6	Islam, Modernity, Daily Life	CO-5: Evaluate the compatibility of Islam and modernity CO-6: Analyze feminism, the role of women, and family in modern Muslim communities LO-1: Explore and critique debates about the relationship between Islam and modernity LO-2: Examine and analyze modern Muslim life in local settings with attention to gender roles LO-3: Identify and discuss gaps in the	Badran (2005) Barlas (2002) Bohn (2011)	Week Six Forum: ***Discussion Forum:*** ***Research Forum: Gaps in your research review*** Due Thursday 11:55pm; Responses due Sunday 11:55pm Lesson Notes Weekly Readings

		literature on a research topic		
7	Islam and Democracy	CO-5: Evaluate the compatibility of Islam and modernity LO-1: Engage and critique debates about the relationship between Islam and democracy LO-2: Construct a research essay and discuss analysis	CFR Taskforce Report (2005) Cole (2006) Islam and Democracy in the Middle East	Week Seven Forum: *Discussion Forum:* *Research Forum: Portion of Paper* Due Thursday 11:55pm; responses due Sunday 11:55pm Lesson Notes Weekly Readings
8	Islam Beyond the Middle East	CO-7: Analyze Islam in Central Asia, South Asia, and other areas beyond the Middle East CO-8: Research, construct, and present a persuasive written analysis relevant to this course. LO-1: Explore and analyze the global distribution of Islam LO-2: Complete a research paper	Esposito et al. (2007) Ro (2003)	Week Eight Forum: *Discussion Forum: Case study and lessons learned* *Research Forum: Précis of final paper* Due Thursday 11:55pm; Responses due Sunday 11:55pm Assignment *Assignment 3: Final paper.* Due: Sunday 11:55pm

Policies

Please see the Student Handbook to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

Drop/Withdrawal Policy
Plagiarism Policy
Extension Process and Policy
Disability Accommodations

Citation and Reference Style
Attention Please: Students will follow the Turabian/Chicago Style as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University.
See http://www.apus.edu/Online-Library/tutorials/chicago.htm.

Late Assignments
Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine

submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

Netiquette

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and "flaming." Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper "Netiquette" must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and <u>especially</u> satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add "emoticons" to help alert your readers: ;-), :), ☺

Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to **librarian@apus.edu**.

- *Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:* The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors' publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- *Electronic Books:* You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.

- *Electronic Journals:* The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.

Request a Library Guide for your course (http://apus.libguides.com/index.php)
The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.

Turnitin.com

Faculty require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. The instructor will post information in the classroom on student procedures.

Selected Bibliography

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