PS156S: Political Systems Across Muslim Societies

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MWF 1:10-2:00pm  
STAT B650

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Sections:  
Section 021 (Monday, 11:10 AM to 12:00 PM) Surge 173  
Section 022 (Wednesday, 12:10 PM to 1:00 PM) Watkins 2240  
Section 023 (Friday, 8:10 AM to 9:00 AM) Sproul 2339

I. About the Course:

Whether Islam is compatible with democracy has been an important debate both in the academia and in policy-making circles in the last decade. That there are varieties of Islam is often overlooked, however. It is a common mistake to restrict the Muslim world to the Middle East and to derive conclusions about political Islam based on the Middle Eastern experience. The religion of Islam has different interpretations and is practiced in different ways across the Muslim world. Most importantly, political and institutional contexts within which Muslim societies live vary significantly. This course is a survey of the different political systems and institutional arrangements regulating the relationship between religion and the state across the Muslim world. It aims at bringing the varieties of political Islam to the forefront and discussing the prospects for democratic government in Muslim societies.

The course will first give a background on the history, main tenets and the schools of the Islamic religion. Then, we will study the political systems and the role of religion in politics in case studies such as Iran, Turkey, Jordan, Algeria, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Indonesia/Malaysia. We will also discuss the political roles of minority Muslim groups such as the immigrants in Europe and Muslims in the US.

II. Requirements:

All students are expected to do the assigned readings before coming to class and are required to attend the weekly discussion sections. Refer to the weekly schedule below for the reading assignments and to the “Discussion Section Syllabus” distributed by your TA for details about the sections.

Attendance to the lecture is expected but not required. If you are responsible enough to attend the lectures, please be on time.
**Discussion Sections:** Attendance to the discussion sections is required. The readings may feel dense because most of you have not been exposed to the Muslim world before. Discussion section is a great opportunity to clarify any questions you may have based on the readings and the lectures. Your TA is Crystal Lee, please refer to the discussion section syllabus she has prepared for more details about the sections.

**Country Fact Sheets:** Starting the fifth week, you will submit country fact sheets each week. A template of the fact sheet is on ilearn, and you will fill out and submit the sheet for one of the countries we will talk about that week. You won’t get credit for fact sheets for “wrong” countries! The information you will need to find is basic background information that can be gathered from online sources like Library of Congress country studies or Wikipedia. This assignment will enable you to learn important facts about these countries, which will help you contextualize the readings. **The country fact sheets are due in your discussion section.** You will go over the country fact sheets in your discussion sections with your TA. Students are expected to come to the section prepared to share their background research and understanding of the role of Islam in the countries in question. No CFS the 10th week, so you will have submitted 5 of them by the end of the quarter.

**Response Papers:** You will write 4 response papers (3-5 pgs, 1.5 line spacing) throughout the quarter. The first response paper is due in class (lecture) on April 22nd, Wednesday. This first response paper will be a reaction to the material covered in the first four weeks, it will be an opinion piece (as in a newspaper) which discusses whether Islam is compatible with democracy and gives the reasoning why/why not. The other 3 response papers can be written for any 3 weeks of 5th, 6th, 7th and 9th weeks, and they are due in class (lecture) on the Wednesday of the week you choose. In these 3 response papers, you will write a brief to the Secretary of State summarizing the role of Islam in society and politics of one of the countries of the week, and evaluating the risks or potentials for regional stability and for US foreign policy. Further guidelines about the “briefs to the Secretary” will be uploaded on ilearn.

**Final Paper:** There are no midterm or final exams, but a final paper, which is due in class (lecture) on June 5th, Friday. You have a lot of freedom with respect to what aspect of politics of Islam you study on or what country/countries you choose as cases. Obviously, so much freedom may lead to indecisiveness! To encourage you to think about the final paper early enough, you will submit the topic, the research question, and the thesis statement for your paper to Crystal (your TA) in section the third week. This submission will be 5% of your final grade. (See the discussion section syllabus for details). Better final papers have an interesting question (a political puzzle), a thesis statement which answers this question and a case study/a comparative case study which provides supporting evidence; they are focused and convincingly argued.

Submit all of your written work on time, late submissions will be penalized. All written work is required to be hard copies, submitted in discussion section or lecture (as indicated above) and also see the note about Safe Assignment below. The instructors do not have any responsibility for assignments submitted in other ways (i.e. email, mailbox, fax…); you have the sole responsibility
for lost emails, corrupt attachments, unattached attachments, any technological malfunctions, etc.

**The composition of the final grade:**
Section attendance and participation: 15%
Country Fact Sheets: 20%
Response Papers: 40% (10% each)
Final Paper: 25% (5 of the 25 from topic/question/thesis statement submission)

**Required Books:** The following books are required and available at the bookstore for purchase. They are also on reserve in the library.


**Other readings:** All other readings can be accessed on ilearn (course materials).

**Academic Honesty:** I take Academic Honesty very seriously, and will refer any academic misconduct to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. Please carefully read and sign the UCR Academic Integrity statement at the very end of this syllabus, detach it, and bring it to your discussion section the second week. Your work will not be graded until we have your signed statement.

By signing this statement, you promise me that you understand what Academic Integrity is, and that you will comply with it.

For purposes of a course grade, academic misconduct can result in a grade of “F” on the assignment, on the final grade, or both. Should you have any questions as to academic misconduct, please feel free to contact me or Crystal.

**Note:** Besides bringing hard copies to class, you are required to upload Response Papers and the Final Paper (but not Country Fact Sheets) on Safe Assignment (on ilearn). *Safe Assignment does NOT accept .docx (Word2007), so make sure your assignment is saved as .doc (old word), .pdf, .rtf, or .txt when you upload it.* Safe Assignment checks documents for plagiarism.
III. Weekly Schedule and Assignments

Week 1: Introduction
No readings assigned for this week, but it is a good idea to get started on the readings for the following weeks.

Week 2: The Muslim World and the Varieties of Islam
John L. Esposito. 2001. “Islamic Fundamentalism in the Middle East and Southwest Asia” *UNHCR Centre for Documentation and Research*.

*Suggested reading:*

Week 3: History of Islam: Evolution into a World religion
Parts I, II, and III

Submit topic, research question and thesis statement in section!!!

Week 4: The Islamic Belief

First response paper (“opinion piece”) due in class on Wednesday, April 22nd!!!

Week 5: Islam in the Middle East
*Democracy and the Middle East*
Ellen Lust-Okar. “Why the Failure of Democratization? Explaining ‘Middle East
Exceptionalism”” Unpublished manuscript.

**Focus on Lebanon and Jordan**

**Suggested Reading:**

**Week 6: Islam in Iran, Egypt and Turkey**

**Suggested Reading:**


**Week 7: Islam in Southeast Asia**

**Varieties of Islam in Southeast Asia**


**Malaysia and Indonesia**


http://www.let.uu.nl/~martin.vanbruinessen/personal/publications/genealogies_islamic_radicalism.htm

**Week 8: Islam in Central Asia and Russia**

**The Former USSR:**


**Afghanistan and Pakistan:**


**Suggested Reading:**

**Week 9: Islam in Africa**
May 25th Monday is a university holiday! No classes!


**Algeria and Nigeria**


**Suggested Reading:**
Week 10: Islam in Europe and the US

**Europe**


**The U.S.**

Read/browse the sections on the menu on the left:
http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/muslimlife/


**Suggested Reading:**


**Final Papers due in class in class, Friday, June 5th!!!**
Academic Integrity at the University of California, Riverside
Definitions

At the University of California, Riverside (UCR) honesty and integrity are fundamental values that guide and inform us as individuals and as a community. The culture of academia requires that each student take responsibility for learning and for producing products that reflect their intellectual potential, curiosity, and capability. Students must represent themselves truthfully, claim only work that is their own, acknowledge their use of others' words, research results, and ideas, using the methods accepted by the appropriate academic disciplines and engage honestly in all academic assignments. Anything less than total commitment to honesty circumvents the contract for intellectual enrichment that students have with the University to become an educated person, undermines the efforts of the entire academic community, and diminishes the value of an education for everyone, especially for the person who cheats. Both students and faculty are responsible for insuring the academic integrity of the University.

Academic misconduct is any act that does or could improperly distort student grades or other student academic records. The following examples of academic misconduct are provided to assist students in developing an understanding of the University's expectations, recognizing that no set of written guidelines can anticipate all types and degrees of violations of academic integrity. To the extent that the examples provided are not exhaustive, duly appointed representatives of the University will judge each case according to its merits.

Misunderstanding of the appropriate academic conduct will not be accepted as an excuse for academic misconduct. If a student is in doubt about appropriate academic conduct in a particular situation, he or she should consult with the instructor in the course to avoid the serious charge of academic misconduct.

CHEATING. Examples include:
- copying from another student's examination, quiz, laboratory work, or homework assignment
- possession or use of pre-prepared notes or other resources, in any form, during an examination, unless such use is expressly authorized by the instructor
- revising a work after its final evaluation and representing the revised version as being the original work
- using external assistance, including but not limited to tutors, books, notes, and calculators, on any "in-class" or "take-home" examination, unless the instructor has specifically authorized external assistance
- allowing others to conduct research or to prepare work for you without advance authorization from the instructor to whom the work is being submitted
- unauthorized use of electronic instruments, such as cell phones, pagers, or PDAs, to access or share information
- submitting for academic advancement an item of academic work that you have previously submitted for academic advancement without prior authorization from the faculty member supervising the work

PLAGIARISM. Plagiarism includes the copying of language, structure, or ideas of another and attributing (explicitly or implicitly) the work to one's own efforts. Plagiarism means using another's work without giving credit. Examples include:
- reproducing another person's work, with or without that person's knowledge or permission, whether published or unpublished, including but not limited to, original ideas, strategies, and research, art, graphics, computer programs, music, and other creative expression. The work may consist of writing, charts, pictures, graphs, diagrams, data, websites, or other communication or recording media, and may include sentences, phrases, innovative terminology, formatting, or other representations
- submitting as your own any academic exercise prepared totally or in part by another
- copying information from computer-based sources, i.e., the Internet
- allowing another person to substantially alter or revise your work and submitting it entirely as your own
- using another's written ideas or words without properly acknowledging the source. The term "source" includes published works (books, magazines, newspapers, websites, plays, movies, photos, paintings, and textbooks) and unpublished sources (class lectures or notes, handouts, speeches, casual conversation, other students' papers, or material from a research service)
- failure to acknowledge study aids such as Cliff's Notes or common reference sources
- unauthorized use of another person's data in completing a computer exercise or other classwork
Helpful resources which offer guidelines for avoiding plagiarism and illustrations of correct and incorrect citation follow.
Please note that specific requirements for citation may vary by discipline or course.

Avoiding Plagiarism. Purdue University, Online Writing Lab.
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html

Plagiarism: What It is and How to Recognize and Avoid It. Indiana University. Writing Tutorial Services.
http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html

Using Sources. Lisa Trivedi and Sharon Williams, Hamilton College, Writing Center.
http://www.hamilton.edu/academics/resource/wc/usingsources.html

Unauthorized Collaboration. Examples include:
• working with other students to do lab work, review books, or develop a presentation or report without permission or direction from the instructor to do so
• making lab data available to a student who did not attend the lab unless expressly given permission by the instructor
• jointly calculating homework problems without professorial permission
• having another help you rewrite a paper
• sharing sources for a take-home exam
• working in a group on a lab assignment without professorial direction or permission
• "debugging" another's computer program without professorial permission
• submitting a group assignment, or allowing that assignment to be submitted, representing the project is the work of all of the members of the group when less than all of the group members assisted substantially in its preparation

Facilitating Academic Dishonesty. Examples include:
• intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another student to commit an act of academic misconduct
• giving unauthorized assistance to others during a test or evaluation, including allowing someone to copy from a test or examination, or arranging with others to give or receive answers via signals
• providing specific information about a recently given test, examination, or assignment to a student who thereby gains an unfair advantage in an academic evaluation
• substituting for another student in order to meet a course or graduation requirement
• providing aid to another student, knowing such aid is expressly prohibited by the instructor, in the research, preparation, creation, writing, performing, or publication of work to be submitted for academic evaluation
• permitting your academic work to be represented as the work of another
• signing in students other than yourself for class attendance

Interference or Sabotage. Examples include:
• destroying, stealing, changing, or damaging another’s lab experiment, computer program, term paper, exam, or project
• removing, defacing, damaging, hoarding, or displacing library materials with the effect that others have undue difficulty using them
• interfering with the operation of a computer system so it has an adverse effect on the academic performance of others
• damaging computer equipment (including disks) or laboratory equipment in order to alter or prevent the evaluation of academic work

Fabrication. Examples include:
• falsifying the results of any laboratory or experimental work or fabricating any data or information
• crediting source material that was not used for research
• falsifying, altering, or misstating the contents of documents or other materials related to academic matters, including but not limited to, schedules, prerequisites, transcripts, attendance records, or University forms
• giving false reasons (in advance or after the fact) for failure to complete academic work
• giving false information or testimony in connection with any investigation or hearing under this policy

Failure to Comply with Research Regulations. Failure to comply with research regulations such as those applying to human subjects, laboratory animals, and standards of safety

Retaliation. Retaliation of any kind against a person who reported or provided information about suspected or alleged misconduct and who has not acted in bad faith

I certify that I have read and will comply with the above: _________________________________________________.

Signature and date                                      Print Your Name Here