PS156: Political Systems Across Muslim Societies (Seminar)

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Fall 2009
F 11:10am -2:00pm
Watkins 2145

I. About the Course:

Since the 9/11 attacks and US involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq that followed, there has been an increased interest in the Muslim world among the public and within the academia. Although we hear a lot about different Muslim societies or Islam in the media, there is still a lack of understanding. This course aims at providing a detailed study of the intersection of politics and religion in countries where a majority of the population are Muslims. Is Islam an obstacle to the development of democracy? Why do we observe persistent gender inequality in Muslim societies? Are secularism and Islam compatible? What are the challenges that modernization present to Muslims? What are the links between economic development and the rise of Islamism? These are some of the questions we will address throughout the quarter.

Through readings and discussion, the students will both gain a better insight into the theoretical debates concerning Islam and politics, and learn about different countries that extend from the Maghreb to Southeast Asia.

II. Requirements and Assignments:

Attendance in the seminar is required: your participation grade will suffer if you fail to attend. If there is an emergency that prevents your attendance, contact me immediately. I reserve the right to judge whether your situation was excusable.

All students are expected to do the assigned readings before coming to class. This is a seminar which is based on your participation and discussion of the subject. You need to have a good understanding of the material to be able to share your thoughts on the topic. Needless to say, your participation will be based on the quality of your contributions to the discussion. Refer to the weekly schedule below for the reading assignments.

Case Country Reports: You will choose a case country among the Muslim societies. You will follow the news for this country throughout the quarter and give 3-5 minute reviews of the week’s developments in class. You will also write 4 reports (5 pgs, double spaced) throughout the quarter, the due dates are listed in the weekly schedule below. Each report should be written on the topics covered in the preceding two weeks: For example, you will write on secularism, political Islam or mobilization in your case country for report #2.

Map Quiz: On a random week during the quarter, I will provide you with blank maps and ask you to identify a list of Muslim countries (A “Muslim country” is defined as a member of the Organization of the Islamic Conference for the purposes of this quiz). You should start to study for this right away. You can start by finding out which countries are members to OIC.

Final Paper: There are no midterm or final exams, but a final paper (12-15 double spaced pages), which is due in class on December 4th, Friday (our last class). This paper should use a comparative method; i.e. you should compare/contrast two Muslim societies to argue your thesis. You have a lot of freedom with
respect to what aspect of politics and Islam you study on or what 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 in class in the fourth week, on Oct 16th. This submission will be 5% of your final grade. I encourage you to meet me to discuss your topic and thesis with me before this submission.

You will have a 10 minute presentation of your paper the last week. Although you have only 10 minutes, you are expected to give a well organized and informative presentation summarizing your argument and evidence. This presentation will be 10% of your final grade.

Better final papers have an interesting question (a political puzzle), a thesis statement which answers this question and 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 class and also see the note about Safe Assignment below. I do not accept any responsibility for assignments submitted in other ways (i.e. email, mailbox, fax…); you have the sole responsibility for lost or overlooked emails, corrupt attachments, unattached attachments, any technological malfunctions, etc.

The composition of the final grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country Reports</td>
<td>40% (10% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper:</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic/question/thesis statement submission</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In class presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map Quiz</td>
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Required Readings: All readings can be accessed on ilearn (under course materials). There may be a few exceptions; they will be made available in advance.

Academic Honesty: I take Academic Honesty very seriously. I have referred and will refer any academic misconduct to the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity Program. Please carefully read and sign the UCR Academic Integrity statement at the very end of this syllabus, detach it, and bring it to me second week. Your work will not be graded until I have your signed statement. By signing this statement, you promise me that you understand what Academic Integrity is and what is considered misconduct, and that you will comply with the statement. 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.

Note: Besides bringing hard copies to class, you are required to upload case reports and the final paper 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 (Sept 25): Introduction
No readings assigned for this week

Week 2 (Oct 2): Islam: Beliefs, Practices, and Misconceptions

Explore BBC’s website on Islam. Read sections under the following headings in the left: At a glance, History, Beliefs, Holy days, Subdivisions, Practices, Texts, People. (The other headings are not required but recommended). Available at: http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/


Week 3 (Oct 9): Democracy


Suggested reading:


First Case report due in class

Week 4 (Oct 16): Secularism, Modernity, and Political Islam


**Suggested reading:**


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**Week 5 (Oct 23): Mobilization: Islamist Political Parties and Movements**


**Suggested Reading:**


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**Second Case Report due in class**

**Week 6 (Oct 30): Fundamentalism, Conflict and violence**


Martin van Bruinessen, 2002. “Genealogies of Islamic Radicalism in post-Suharto Indonesia,” *South East*
http://www.let.uu.nl/~martin.vanbruinessen/personal/publications/genealogies_islamic_radicalism.htm


Suggested reading:

Week 7 (Nov 6): Women’s rights and multiculturalism


Third Case Report due in class

Week 8 (Nov 13): Economy and Development


**Suggested reading:**

**Week 9 (Nov 20):  Islam and the West**


*Fourth Case Report due in class*

**Nov 26-27 Happy Thanksgiving!**

**Week 10 (Dec 4):  In-class Presentations**

*Final Papers due in class in class, Friday, December 4th!!!*
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
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