

Amideast Education Abroad Programs

RELG 340: Islamic Reform and Islamist Movements Syllabus

Program Location: Rabat, Morocco

Credit Hours: 3 Credit Hours

Term and Year:

Course Description:

Since the 19th century, Islamic reformism has emerged as a response to the challenges of modern times in the Islamic world. Muslim intellectuals presented several theories to explain the relative decline of Islamic civilization vis-a-vis the West. As a result, reforming Islam and improving the living standards of contemporary Muslims have become fundamental issues in Islamic thought. This course examines the different responses and attitudes expressed by eminent Islamic modernist thinkers and the religious movements that have emerged over the past two centuries - conservative, fundamentalist, Salafist, and Islamist, to name a few - and their approaches to the reformation of Islamic thought and action.

The course will try to answer to the following questions:

- How have different Muslim intellectuals responded (and continue to respond) to the problems created by the relationship between Revelation and Reason, faith, sciences, and modernity (M. Abduh, Khayr-Dine Tunisi, S.Arslan, etc.)?
- How relevant are the ijihad answers coming from some European and American Muslim reformers?

Aims and Objectives of the Course:

This course provides a historical and sociological overview of religious and cultural reforms in the Arab world during the past 200 years. It focuses on the reformist ideas of religious scholars and their implementation by different religious movements and governments in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

Learning Outcomes:

By the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain the adaptation process of Arab societies to modern times.
- Describe how Arab societies are dealing with some key issues such as the status and functions of Dawla (Islamic state), the reconstruction of the 'Umma (Islamic community), the role of 'Ulama (Muslim scholars) in ruling the society, etc.
- List and explain the different reforms proposed by different Ulama since the Nahda (Renaissance) in late 19th century.
- Differentiate between major social forces and religious trends in the MENA region.

Knowledge:

This course is designed to assist students to acquire and demonstrate knowledge about:

- The history and sociology of Islamic thought in the contemporary period.
- Religious challenges and changes facing Islamic thinkers in the last 200 years.
- The formation and development of religious reform and activist (Islamist) movements in the Arab world.

Skills:

This course is designed to assist students in acquiring or enhancing the following skills:

- Critical analysis of texts
- Analysis of complex ideas
- Oral presentation skills
- Academic writing skills

Attitudes:

This course is designed to encourage development of the following attitudes:

- To think critically about the various theories of Muslim reform.
- Openness towards Muslim cultures and their variety.
- Positive interaction with the Islamic culture.
- To reason in terms of "global destiny" of human societies.

Required Readings:

1. Yahia H. Zoubir and Haizam Amirah-Fernandez. North Africa: Politics, Region, And the Limits of Transformation. *Routledge*, 2008.
2. Muhammad Abduh, *The Theology of Unity (Risalat Tawhid)*, London, Islamic Book Trust, 2004, pp.9-169.
http://www.aboutquran.com/ba/bio/MuhammadAbduh/Muhammad.Abduh_TheologyUnity.pdf.
3. Chakib Arslan, *Our Decline, Its Causes and Remedies*, London, Islamic Book Trust, 2004, pp. 1-72, 172 pages. <http://www.islamicbookstore.com/b7883.html>
4. Tariq Ramadan, *Western Muslims and the Future of Islam*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2004, pp. 144-173.
5. Peter Mandaville, *Global Political Islam*, London: Routledge, 2007, pp. 24-146.
6. Mohamed El-Tahir El-Mousawi, "Muslim Reformist Action in 19th Century Tunisia" in *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*, 25:2, pp. 49-82.
7. Sayyid Kotb, *Milestones*, London, pp: 1-103. a. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sayyid_Qutb audio gallery website, www.Alubayt.com
8. Sayyid Kotb, *Social Justice in Islam*, (translated by Hamid Algar & John B. Hardie), London, Islamic Publications International, 1999. pp. 1-80.
9. Suha Taji-Farouki and Basheer M. Nafi, *Islamic Thought in the Twentieth Century*, Institute for Ismaili Studies, I.B. Tauris, London & New York, 2004. pp. 28-60.
10. Barbara Freyer Stowasser (Editor), *The Islamic Impulse*, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Washington DC, 1987. pp. 37-58.
11. Farhad Khosrokhavar, *Inside Jihadism: Understanding Jihad Movements Worldwide*, Paradigm Publishers, 2009.
12. J. Cooper, R. Nettler & M. Mahmoud editors, *Islam and Modernity*, London & New York, I. B. Taurus, 1998, pp: 82-104.
13. Natana J. Delong-Bas, *Wahhabi Islam: From Revival and Reform to Global Jihad*, American University of Cairo Press, Cairo, 2004, pp. 1-91.
14. John L. Esposito: *Where Are the Muslim Reformers? In the Future of Islam*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2010, pp: 89-171.

Assessment Overview:

Description	Weight	Due Date
Engagement	10%	Continuous
Oral Presentations	10%	Varies by Student
Midterm Exam	20%	TBD
Final Paper Submission and Discussion	30%	TBD
Final Exam	30%	TBD

Assessment Tasks –

Attendance and Engagement:

Students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes and come prepared to participate fully in class activities. Students are further expected to be on time for all classes. Arriving late for class is disrespectful of both the instructor and fellow students. You should come to class well prepared to participate and make substantive contributions to the class discussions. Specific orientation on reading preparation will be provided during the introductory session. The engagement grade will depend on quality and quantity of your comments and questions as well as other evidence of your engagement in the course and shall amount to 10% of the overall semester grade.

For more on the attendance policy, please see the policy posted in the online course and on the Absence request site on the Student Portal.

Oral Presentations:

Your oral participation and PowerPoint presentation shall amount to 10% each of the overall semester grade. The presentation consists of presenting the theme of a class session, a summary of the required reading for the class, and your critiques/comments. It should not go beyond 10 minutes.

Midterm Exam:

There will be a mid-term exam in on ... It will be in class and is worth 20% of the overall semester grade.

Final Paper:

Each student will write a 4,000-word term paper based on a topic approved by the instructor in Week 6 (description of approximately 100 words).

The research paper should be based on a theoretical topic related to the course or field work documentation and demonstrate adherence to academic standards of citation (quotations, citations, bibliography, etc.). Combination of theory and fieldwork is permitted. The term paper is due on ... Late papers will be penalized 10 points for each day late they are turned in. The term paper constitutes 30% of the semester grade for this course.

Final Exam:

There will be a final exam, which will be in-class on ... The final exam is worth 30% of the total grade.

Course Schedule:

Week	Classwork/Readings	Exams, Trips and Holidays
	<i>Orientation Week</i>	
Week 1	Introduction to the Course: Method & Themes, The Rise of Islamic Reformist Thought. - Peter Mandaville: Global Political Islam, pp. 1- 48	
Week 2	Some Concepts and Modern Issues: Wahabiyya and Wahhabism in the 18th Century Context. - Natana J. Delong-Bas: "Muhammad Ibn Abd Al Wahhab and the Origins of Wahhabism in the 18-Century Context," pp. 7-91.	

Week 3	<p>Al Sheikh Muhammad Abduh's Life and Thought: http://www.aboutquran.com/ba/bio/MuhammadAbduh/Muhammad.AbduhTheologyUnity.pdf</p> <p>- Risalat Tawhid: The Theology of Unity, pp. 45-117</p>	
Week 4	<p>Diagnosis of the Islamic Cultural Crisis: Why Muslims are Lagging Behind?</p> <p>- Shakib Arslan, Our Decline: Its Causes and Remedies, pp. 1-80.</p>	
Week 5	<p>Khayr al-Din Tunusi: http://i-epistemology.net/attachments/927_ajiss-25-2-stripped%20-%20El-Mesawi%20%20Muslim%20Reformist%20Action%20in%20Nineteenth%20Century%20Tunisia.pdf</p> <p>http://www.jstor.org/action/showPublication?journalCode=iqurastud</p> <p>- El-Tahir El-Mousawi, pp. 43-89</p>	
Week 6	<p>Criticism of Western Modernity and the call for The Islamic Revolution http://www.angelfire.com/az/rescon/Bkrvqtb.html http://www.ijtihad.org/sq.html</p> <p>- Hassan al Banna's Preaches and Sermons.</p> <p>- Sayyid Kotb: Milestones PP: 1-103</p>	Term Paper Topic Due
Week 7	<p>Debate on the Nature of the Caliphate</p> <p>- Ali Abdel Razek, "Islam and the Foundations of Political Power," Edinburg U. Press, 2012, PP:25-111</p>	Midterm
Week 8	<i>No Class: Break</i>	
Week 9	<p>Islamist Movements and the Democratic Process in the Arab World: Exploring the Gray Zones</p> <p>- Brown, Nathan J., Amr Hamzawy, and Marina Ottaway. 2006. "Islamist Movements and the Democratic Process in the Arab World: Exploring the Gray Zones." Carnegie Papers, no.67 (March).</p>	
Week 10	<p>Inside Jihadism</p> <p>- Farhad Khosrokhavar: "Explanatory Approaches to Jihadism," pp.1- 98</p> <p>- Engineers of Jihad, Christopher Boucek, Steffen Hertog, Marc Sageman. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, September 1, 2009.</p>	
Week 11	<p>Western Muslims and the future of Islam</p> <p>- Tariq Ramadan, "Social Commitment and Political Participation," pp. 144-173</p>	Final Paper Submission
Week 12	<p>Islam and Modernity in the Muslim World: Muslim Intellectual Responds.</p> <p>- Abdou Filali-Ansari, "Can Modern Rationality Shape a New Religiosity? Mohamed Abed Jabiri and the Paradox of Islam and Modernity, " PP 159-171.</p> <p>- N. ABU-ZAHRA, "Islamic History, Islamic Identity and the Reform of Islamic Law", PP 82-104.</p>	Final Research Paper Submission

Week 13	Religious Reform and the Burden of the Western Muslim Intellectuals. Abdelwahab El-Affendi” The People of the Edge,” pp.19-50	<u>Excursion</u>
Week 14	Identity or Modernity? John L. Esposito: “Where Are the Muslim Reformers?” PP 88-141.	
Week 15	Final Exam	
Week 16	Reflection Week (Time and location TBD)	