Between Hamas and ISIS: Radical Islamic Movements in a Changing Middle East

48782 / SPME2011

Mr. Adam Hoffman and Mr. Ariel Koch

July 3 – July 27, 2017

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday – 9:00 – 12:00

45 Academic Hours, 3 Academic Credits

Contact Details Instructor

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Course Description

This course examines major contemporary Islamist movements and ideologies in the Sunni Muslim world, and the major changes within Islam and jihadism since the events of the Arab Spring of 2011. What are the key Islamist movements? What motivates them? What is their relation to traditional Islamic thought and how do they relate to modernity? Against whom do they fight and why? How do different movements maneuver between Islamic religious principles and political imperatives? What are the main similarities and differences between the different militant movements in contemporary Islam? Finally, how did the Arab Uprisings of 2011 (the "Arab Spring") affect the discourse and political behavior of radical Islamic movements?

The course will focus on major Sunni Islamist thinkers, schools, and movements, such as the Muslim Brotherhood, Sayyid Qutb and post-MB Egyptian radicalism, Palestinian Hamas, al-Qa'ida and global jihad and the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Finally, the course will also briefly examine the issue of radical Islam in Europe. The course will incorporate theoretical and comparative perspectives in addition to close study of
primary sources (in translation), with the aim of understanding the diversity of modern Islamism and assessing the correlation between differences in ideology and divergent patterns of political and militant behavior.

**Course Requirements**

- **Class attendance**
  - It is mandatory for all students to attend classes and participate in class activities. Failure to attend classes will result in a student being denied the right to partake of the final assignment and receive a final grade in a course. Students who have a justified reason to miss class (illness, mourning, etc.) must communicate with their instructors and the Department of Summer Courses and Special Programs, and complete the material that they have missed.
  - Students who have missed class due to illness must obtain a signed and stamped sick note from a treating physician and submit it to the Dept. of Summer Courses and Special Programs immediately following their return to class. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence.
  - The Department reserves the right to refer the issue to an Academic Committee. In some cases, the Academic Committee may decide, in light of the requirements of the course, that it is not possible to make up the missing course work.

- **Student Participation - Class Presentations:**
  Students will be required to make two presentations during the course: one presentation will focus on a key term in Islamic political thought, and a second presentation will deal with a particular militant movement. Presentations will be done either in pairs or individually. The choice of topic will be geared toward each student’s individual interests in consultation with the instructor. Students listening to each presentation are expected to respond with constructive analytical questions and comments using the conceptual tools learned in the course. Presentations should use PowerPoint or paper hand-outs, and also be submitted as a short essay (400 words). The presentations should be based on class discussions, reading items from the course syllabus and further research based on relevant bibliography. Students are welcome to consult the instructor regarding the relevant sources for each presentation.
Presentations on key Islamic terms should include the literal meaning of the term, the term’s classical meaning and its political use by modern-day Islamic movements.

The list of key Islamic terms includes:

- Da’wa
- Jihad
- Fatwa
- Bay’a
- Jahiliyya
- Hakimiyya
- Tawhid
- Shirk
- Umma
- Bid’a
- Takfir
- Taqlid
- Ijtihad
- Taghut
- Ghuraba
- Khilafa
- Shari’a
- Hadith
- Shura
- ’Aqida
- Manhaj

The list of possible presentations topics include, but are not limited to, al-Qā’ida-affiliated movements and other militant extremist Islamist in the following regions:

- Syria
- Iraq
- Lebanon
- Yemen
- North Africa — Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Morocco
- Western Africa — Nigeria, Mali, Niger
• Somalia and the Horn of Africa/East Africa
• North Caucasus — Chechnya and Daghestan
• Central Asia
• China – Xinjiang/East Turkestan
• Philippines – Autonomous Muslim region of Bangsamoro

**Final Exam**

Earning Graduate Credits for this course:

Graduate students are expected to inform the Rothberg International School – rissummer@savion.huji.ac.il - of their interest in earning graduate credit for their summer course(s).

Graduate students must complete a 15-page, double-spaced, seminar paper with bibliography for the course in place of the course's standard final assessment (in most cases, an exam). The topic and bibliography for these papers must be chosen in conjunction and agreement with each course instructor. Students must approach course instructors by the end of the first week of the course and arrange a time to meet and define their paper topic and bibliography.

The graduate seminar papers must be submitted within 2 months following course completion in order for the graduate student to fulfill requirements for this course.

**Grading Rubrics:**

• **Participation**: 30% [Including two presentations]

• **Final Exam**: 70%

**Course Outline:**

**Class one: Introduction: Why study Islamist movements?**

(No readings)

**Class two: Islamism as a modern phenomenon**

**ERESERVE 002016526; 297.19 M271**

**Further readings:**

**Field Trip to the Museum for Islamic Art, Jerusalem.**

**Class Three: The Muslim Brotherhood**

**Readings:**


**Further readings:**


**Class Four: Sayyid Qutb and Egyptian Radical Groups**

**Readings:**


**Further readings:**
Class Five: Ḥamās

Readings:


Further readings:


Class Six: al-Qāʿida and Global Jihad

Readings:


Further readings:


Class Seven: The Arab Spring


**Class Eight: The Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood: Adapting to a new reality**


**Class Nine: ISIS**

• Al-‘Adnani, Abu Muhammad, "This is the Promise of Allah (Caliphate Declaration)". *Al Hayat Media Center*, June 19, 2014.

• McCants, William. *The ISIS Apocalypse: The History, Strategy, and Doomsday Vision of the Islamic State*. Macmillan, 2015, Ch. 6 (pp. 121-144). *Main Library HV 6433 I722 M333 2015; ERESERVE 002012461*

Further readings:


**Class Ten: Salafi Jihādism since the "Arab Spring"**


Further Readings:

**Class Eleven: Radical Islam in Europe**


• Vidino, Lorenzo. "*Sharia4: from confrontational activism to militancy.*" *Perspectives on Terrorism* 9.2 (2015).

• Pantucci, Raffaello. "*Al-Muhajiroun’s European Recruiting Pipeline*", Cobating Terrorism Center at West Point, August 21, 2015.

**Further Readings:**


• Hoffman, Adam. "*From Hijra to Terror: The Islamic State’s Threat to France*", *Tel Aviv Notes*, Vol. 10 (19), The Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies (MDC), December 13, 2016.

**July 26: Final exam**