In the past several decades and especially since September 11, 2001, policymakers, scholars and individuals have been debating issues related to the compatibility of Islam and democracy, the growth of violent Islamist movements, and the causes of terrorism and suicide bombings. In many instances, such debates seem to boil down to a “clash of civilization.” To explore these issues we will examine a diverse body of literature drawing on political science, anthropology, economics, sociology, and history. We will focus our primary attention to Muslim-majority countries in the Middle East as well as Central and South Asia.

This course begins by investigating the nature of the state in Islamic history and thought. We will explore the interaction between religion and the state prior to the rise of 20th century Islamist movements, focusing on the case of the Ottoman Empire. We then explore the rise the origins of contemporary Islamist movements, beginning with the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. What are the intellectual origins of such movements? What impact do they have upon domestic politics in the countries where they emerge? Are Islamist movements compatible with democratic forms of governance? When do such groups engage in violence? How have governments responded to such violence and to what result? The course will explore these and other pressing questions by examining a broad range of movements (both violent and non-violent) in authoritarian and democratic settings, as well as in failed or persistently weak states.
Assignments
There are four opportunities for evaluation in this course:

Midterm: 30%
Final Exam: 30%
Two Short Papers: 30% (15% each) – due dates listed below
Class Participation: 10%

Expectations in the Classroom
Students are expected to come to class prepared. Proper preparation requires that you not only read the materials, but that you also spend significant time reflecting and dissecting the materials for that week.

Texting is distracting to drivers and it is equally distracting in the classroom. As a result, during this course you must turn off your cell phone. Furthermore, laptop computers are also not allowed during the class unless you have a special need.

Books
The following books are required books for the course. They are available at the University Bookstore as well as at any number of online retailers.


Grading Policy
GSPIA’s grading policy is based on the premise that work at the graduate level is fundamentally different from that at undergraduate institutions. In general, expectations regarding student
performance will be higher. Grades in the "A" range will be reserved for students who perform exceptionally well in all components of the course. Grades in the "B" range will be considered satisfactory graduate-level performance. Grades in the "C" range are an indication of below satisfactory performance at the graduate level, with marks of "C-" and below not counted toward a student's degree requirements. Students receiving grades of "C+" or lower on early assignments are urged to meet with the instructor at the earliest opportunity to identify potential problems and develop strategies for improvement.

Students occasionally request an extension at the end of the semester if they cannot complete their assignments due to unforeseen work commitments, family problems, illness and so on. A "G" grade will be given only under exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the instructor, and should be discussed with the instructor before the end of the term. Poor time management is not considered an "exceptional circumstance." According to GSPIA policy, a student must remove the G grade by completing the assigned work for the course as soon as possible in the semester following the course.

Finally, you should note that the assigned readings for the course provide only the skeletal framework for the topics we will discuss. Therefore, in your assignments, you are encouraged to use other research materials, resources, data, readings, etc.

Special Needs
If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890/ (412) 383-7355 (TTY), as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

Cheating and Plagiarism
Plagiarism is use of written material from any source without proper citation. It is a serious violation of academic ethics. Note that I adhere strictly to the school policy on plagiarism. Any paper found to have plagiarized material will automatically receive a failing grade, and serious cases of plagiarism can result in a failing grade for the class, so take the time to familiarize yourself with the rules of citation and with GSPIA's policy (found in the GSPIA handbook of academic policies and procedures). If you have any questions on how to cite sources correctly, please ask me directly. Unless clearly specified, you are expected to complete all assignments individually.

- Provides assistance during an academic evaluation to another person in a manner not authorized by the instructor.
- Receives assistance during an academic evaluation from another person in a manner not authorized by the instructor.
- Practices any form of deceit in an academic evaluation proceeding.
- Submits the work of another person in a manner that represents the work to be one's own.
STATEMENT ON CLASSROOM RECORDING
To address the issue of students recording a lecture or class session, the University’s Senate Educational Policy Committee issued the recommended statement on May 4, 2010. While it is optional, the Committee recommends that faculty consider adding the statement to all course syllabi.

“To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student’s own private use.”

Introduction

January 7 – Week 1
Issues and Overview

January 14 – Week 2
Islam, the State, and the Rise (and Fall) of the Islamic State

January 21 – Week 3
MLK Day
Islamism as a Political Strategy

January 28 – Week 4

Egypt and the Rise of the Muslim Brotherhood

Islamic States and Islamization from Above

February 4 – Week 5

Kemalism and its response in Turkey
Short paper #1

February 11 – Week 6

Pakistan
February 18 – Week 7

Iran


Recommended


Authoritarian reactions

February 25 – Week 8 (Guest Lecture: Farhod Yuldashev)

Soviet Union and Post-Soviet Central Asia

Short paper #2 due


March 4 – Week 9

Midterm

March 11 – Week 10

Spring Break
Islamic Movements in Weak and Failing States

March 18 – Week 11
Hezbollah and Hamas


Islam and Insurgency

March 25 – Week 12 (Guest Lecture: Dan Bisbee)
Iraq and the Shia Revival


April 1 – Week 13
Afghanistan and the Taliban

Transnational Islam: Diffusion of the Arab Spring and Transnational Islamist Networks

April 8 – Week 14
The Syrian Uprising


April 15 – Week 15
Transnational Islam