

VU IIRPS

## **POLITICAL AND RADICAL ISLAM**

Lecturer: dr. Ieva Koreivaitė

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION and REQUIREMENTS**

The course is aimed at providing skills to evaluate critically and analyse the political thought, movement, establishment of political and radical Islam.

The analysis will be held in the manner of challenging popular Western notions of Islam as a monolithic worldview. Therefore we will show diversity of Islamic political thought and its representations: we will regard Sunni and Shia political thought, also extremist (fundamentalist) and liberal Islam will be distinguished, and variety of transnational and regional settings of Islamic movement and establishment will be observed.

#### **Learning outcomes of the course**

- Ability to understand the historical and theological roots behind the political and radical action in Islam;
- Capability to recognize the diversity of Islamic political thought, movement and establishment;
- Awareness of the nature and function of political authority, legitimization, reasoning and principles in the Islamic politics and radical behaviour.

#### **Requirements of the course**

- Qualitative participation at the class (10 %): at least one notice at the class;
- Media monitoring (oral & written; one time/semester; 10 %): at the beginning of each class a few students will be asked to present current political events in the Middle East that can be associated with or inspired by Islam. Also students will be required to be acquainted with the context of the events they present. Written media monitoring comment along with the link to the media article should be placed on the FB page of the course.
- Presentation of additional materials (oral; one time/semester; 10 %): students responsible for presentation are asked to contribute to the class, which means not to report the content of the read materials, but more to contribute to class discussion with valuable notices which attracted their attention in the text they read. Visual presentation is welcomed.
- Answer 2 question during the course (written; two times/semester (not specified when); 40%): at the end of one class (not specified which) students will be asked to answer a question, concerning the read materials for the class and materials presented by the lecturer.
- Final paper in a form of report on a radical organisation you choose (written; 30%).

*Attendance:* students are allowed to miss 2 classes. If more than 2 classes are missed, at the end of the course they will have an oral discussion with the teacher on the reading materials of the missed classes. Students missing more than 50 % of the classes will not be assessed.

### **CLASSES**

#### **Part I: Islamic Concept of Politics**

*1<sup>st</sup> class.* Topic: Relation between Islam and politics - historical approach

Reading materials:

Karen Armstrong, *Islam: A Short History*, p. 41-203.

Visual materials: E. Said interview on on post-colonial discourse and orientalism.

2<sup>nd</sup> class. Topic: Sunni - Shia divide

3<sup>rd</sup> class. Topic: Philosophical, theological and legal aspects of political Islam

Theological schools: Mu'tazila, Ash'ari, Maturidi, Khawarij, Murji'ah and Qadariyah/ Aspects of the free will and sin

Law schools (madhhab): Hanafi, Maliki, Shafi'i, Hanbali, Ja'fari, Ibadi, Zaidi/ Aspects of principles, usage of *ijtihad* and flexibility

4<sup>th</sup> class. Topic: Islamic revival and contemporary Islamic thought

Reading materials:

Graham E. Fuller, *The Future of Political Islam*, 2nd and 3rd chapters.

Additional reading materials:

Fred Dallmayr, *Comparative Political Theory: An Introduction*, p. 55-66.

5<sup>th</sup> class. Topic: Islam and Democracy

Reading materials:

Asaf Bayat, "Islam and Democracy: What is the Real Question?"

Additional reading materials:

Quran, sura (chapter) 42. Al-Shura (The Consultation. <https://quran.com/42>)

## **Part II: States and Political Islam**

6<sup>th</sup> class. Topic: Medina: the First Islamic State

Reading materials:

Charter of Medina

7<sup>th</sup> class. Topic: Iran: Islamic Shia State

Reading materials:

Constitution of Islamic Republic of Iran

Additional reading materials:

J. L. Esposito, *J.O.Voll, Makers of Contemporary Islam*, p. 150-177.

Abu-Rabi, Ibrahim, *The Blackwell Companion to Contemporary Islamic Thought*, p. 544-562.

For further reading:  
Shahram Akbarzadeh, *Routledge Handbook of Political Islam*, p. 142–167.

8<sup>th</sup> class. Topic: Conservative Saudi Arabia

Reading materials:  
The Basic Law of Governance.

Hrair Dekmejian, "The Rise of Political Islamism in Saudi Arabia", p. 627-643.

Additional reading materials:  
Madawi Al-Rasheed, *Contesting the Saudi State: Islamic Voices from a New Generation*, ch. 1, p. 22-59, ch. 3, p. 102-13.

9<sup>th</sup> class. Topic: Turkey: towards reislamisation?

Reading materials:  
Ahmet Yildiz, "Transformation of Islamic Thought in Turkey Since the 1950s".

Additional reading materials:  
Doğan Gürpınar, Ceren Kenar, "The Nation and its Sermons: Islam, Kemalism and the Presidency of Religious Affairs in Turkey".

Nazlı Çağın Bilgili, "Religiosity and tolerance in Turkey: Is Islam the problem?".

### **PART III: Radical organisations**

10<sup>th</sup> class. Topic: Radicalisation

Reading materials:  
Quintan WIKTOROWICZ, "A Genealogy of Radical Islam".

Seyed Sadegh Haghighat, „In the Name of Allah: Jihad from a Shi‘a Hermeneutic Perspective”

Additional reading materials:  
Daniel Byman, “Fighting Salafi-Jihadist Insurgencies: How Much Does Religion Really Matter?”

11<sup>th</sup> class. Topic: Muslim Brotherhood

Reading materials:  
Rachel Ehrenfeld, "The Muslim Brotherhood Evolution: An Overview".

Additional reading materials:  
Ana Belén Soage, "Ḥasan al-Bannā or the Politicisation of Islam".

Ana Belén Soage, "Ḥasan al-Bannā and Sayyid Quṭb: Continuity or Rupture?".

12<sup>th</sup> class. Topic: Global Jihadi organisation: IS

Reading materials:

Alastair Crooke, "You Can't Understand ISIS if You Don't Know the History of Wahhabism in Saudi Arabia".

Anne Speckhard. "ISCVE Report: The Hypnotic Power of ISIS Imagery in Recruiting Western Youth".

Additional reading materials:

"The Return of the Khilafah", *Dabiq*, no. 1.

"Just terror", *Dabiq*, no. 12.

Almakan Orozobekova, "The Mobilization and Recruitment of Foreign Fighters: The Case of Islamic State, 2012–2014".

13<sup>th</sup> class. Topic: Local *jihadi* organisation Hamas

Reading materials:

Hamas Charter.

Tristan Dunning, "Islam and resistance: Hamas, ideology and Islamic values in Palestine".

Additional reading materials:

As'ad Ghanem & Mohanad Mustafa, "Explaining Political Islam: The Transformation of Palestinian Islamic Movements".

Carin Berg, "Tunes of religious resistance? Understanding Hamas music in a conflict context".

14<sup>th</sup> class. Topic: Local *jihadi* organisation Hezbollah

Reading materials:

Simon Haddad, "The Origins of Popular Support for Lebanon's Hezbollah".

Additional reading materials:

Matthew Levitt, "Hezbollah's Man in Egypt".

Celina B. Realuyo, "The Terror-Crime Nexus: Hezbollah's Global Facilitators".

Kendall Bianchi, "How Hezbollah Uses Dreams to Inspire Jihad and Sanctify Martyrdom".

15<sup>th</sup> class. Topic: Final points