PSC 300:M205; MES 300:M003; REL 300:M003
Sociology of Islamic Fundamentalism
Spring 2010
Classroom: Eggers Hall 032

Instructor: Dr. Hossein Bashiriyeh
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Class Time: WF: 12:45-2:05 pm
Office Hours: F: 2:30-4:30
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The main purpose of this course is to probe into the social and political origins and basic causes of Islamic Fundamentalism. As a major recent political ideology and movement, Islamic Fundamentalism has had profound impacts on both Islam and the Islamic world as well as on the West and the international community. While its impacts and consequences as well as the history of its emergence are more or less adequately studied in various related courses, its social origins and causes have not received as much scholarly attention and investigation. So in this sociological course we are more concerned with the causes rather than the consequences of resurgent Islam. Although sociological theorizing on Islamic Fundamentalism is a more recent development, the existing rich literature on the social origins of similar ideological and political movements has provided much needed inspiration for the students of the subject.

COURSE CONTENT:
The course is divided into two parts; in the first part we will study the possible roots of Islamic Fundamentalism in the history of early Islam as well as the Quran and the Prophetic Traditions. Some intellectual origins of Islamic Fundamentalism can also be found within the tradition of political philosophy in Islam. Although historical, scriptural as well as intellectual roots and origins are decisive in understanding the nature of Islamic Fundamentalism today, obviously the ideology and the movement are contemporary developments, rising in response to modern conditions and issues. Hence in the second part of the course we will concentrate on the sociological, political and economic origins of Islamic Fundamentalism and the recent resurgence of Islam. Thus Islamic Fundamentalism and Islamism will be studied from such a point of view in several Muslim countries today including Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Lebanon and the Palestinian Territories.
Our discussion of Islamic Fundamentalism in this part will include both an examination of Islamism as a political opposition movement in many more or less secular Muslim countries as well as Islamic Fundamentalism in power as in Iran, Sudan and Saudi Arabia. However, Islamic Fundamentalism is not just a local or national political movement and ideology but has recently acquired international aspects. The internationalization of Islamic Fundamentalism was an indirect result of the Cold War and indirect confrontation between the US and the Soviet Union in the Afghan theater and elsewhere. The causes and outcomes of this internationalization of Islamism will also be dealt with in some detail.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Since classes will be a mixture of lecture and discussion, students should read the assigned materials before coming to class. The discussions and lectures will not naturally duplicate the assigned readings for each session but will rather build upon them.

Course requirements include a midterm exam (40%) on March 4; a final exam (40%) on May 7, and class attendance and participation in discussions (20%). Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor to seek clarification on the content of the course or discuss any issues and difficulties they may be experiencing. The Syracuse University Academic Integrity Policy holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the Policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about instructor and general academic expectations with regard to proper citation of sources in written work. The policy also governs the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments as well as the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verifications of participation in class activities. Serious sanctions can result from academic dishonesty of any sort. For more information and the complete policy, see http://academicintegrity.syr.edu

Students who may need academic accommodations due to a disability are encouraged to discuss their needs with the instructor at the beginning of the semester. In order to obtain authorized accommodations, students should be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS), 804 University Avenue, Room 309, 315-443-4498 and have an updated accommodation letter for the instructor. Accommodations and related support services such as exam administration are not provided retroactively and must be requested in advance.

READINGS:
Required: Course Reader posted on Blackboard;
**Supplementary:** William M. Watt, *Islamic Fundamentalism and Modernity.* (Routledge, 1988) [http://books.google.com/books?id=e-0NAAAQAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=Islamic+Fundamentalism&as_brr=3&ei=2EBiSczXCKOOyQTW5oXkAg&rview=1](http://books.google.com/books?id=e-0NAAAQAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=Islamic+Fundamentalism&as_brr=3&ei=2EBiSczXCKOOyQTW5oXkAg&rview=1)

Johannes Jansen, *The Dual Nature of Islamic Fundamentalism.* [http://books.google.com/books?id=3w9CvjALUCgC&printsec=frontcover&dq=Islamic+Fundamentalism&as_brr=3&ei=2EBiSczXCKOOyQTW5oXkAg&rview=1](http://books.google.com/books?id=3w9CvjALUCgC&printsec=frontcover&dq=Islamic+Fundamentalism&as_brr=3&ei=2EBiSczXCKOOyQTW5oXkAg&rview=1)


Gilles Kepel, Anthony Roberts, *Jihad.* [http://books.google.com/books?id=OLvTNk75hUoC&printsec=frontcover&dq=Islamic+Fundamentalism&as_brr=3&ei=2EBiSczXCKOOyQTW5oXkAg&rview=1](http://books.google.com/books?id=OLvTNk75hUoC&printsec=frontcover&dq=Islamic+Fundamentalism&as_brr=3&ei=2EBiSczXCKOOyQTW5oXkAg&rview=1)

Joseph Lumbard (ed.), *Islam, Fundamentalism and Betrayal of Tradition.* [http://books.google.com/books?id=bnES1vdtmAC&pg=PA3&dq=Islamic+Fundamentalism&as_brr=3&ei=2EBiSczXCKOOyQTW5oXkAg&rview=1](http://books.google.com/books?id=bnES1vdtmAC&pg=PA3&dq=Islamic+Fundamentalism&as_brr=3&ei=2EBiSczXCKOOyQTW5oXkAg&rview=1)

Douglas Pratt, *The Challenge of Islam.* [http://books.google.com/books?id=Azo-l8mm1cC&pg=PA140&dq=Islamic+Fundamentalism&lr=&as_brr=3&ei=RkNiSdzmO1vkywSm0qXjAg&rview=1](http://books.google.com/books?id=Azo-l8mm1cC&pg=PA140&dq=Islamic+Fundamentalism&lr=&as_brr=3&ei=RkNiSdzmO1vkywSm0qXjAg&rview=1)

Some sites of interest:
- [http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/](http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/)
- [http://www.arches.uga.edu/~godlas/](http://www.arches.uga.edu/~godlas/)
- [http://islam.about.com/](http://islam.about.com/)

**Class Schedule:**

**Week One**

**Importance of Islamic Fundamentalism Today**

(Jan. 20-22)

Talking about theoretical structure and goals of the course;
Diverse theoretical explanations of the phenomenon;
Defining Fundamentalism in general;

Vannebo, Berit. *"Religious Fundamentalism and The Resurgence of Religion"*
Altinordu, Ates. "The Politicization of Religion: Political Catholicism and Political Islam in Comparison"

Week Two: Historical Origins I: The Prophetic Career of Muhammad (Jan. 27-29)

Week Three: Historical Origins II: Theocracy at Medina (Feb. 3-5)
Rev George Bush A.M., Life of Mohammed, pp. 101-156

Week Four: Scriptural Origins: Islamic Teachings, the Quran and the Sharia (Feb.10-12)
David Zeidan, "The Islamic Fundamentalist View of Life as a Perennial Battle"

Richard Bailey, Jihad: The Teachings of Islam from Its Primary Sources: The Quran and Hadith:
http://www.answering-islam.org/Bailey/jihad.html

Week Five: Intellectual Origins: From Ibn Taymiyyah to Abdel-Wahhab and Al-Banna (Feb. 17-19)
Makstenieks, Scott. ""Why They Hate Us": Sayyid Qutb, Islamic Fundamentalism and Public Emotionality"
"The Relationship Between Traditional and Contemporary Islamist Political Thought"

Week Six: Sociological Explanations (Feb. 24-26)
Demirezen, Ismail. "Islam and Suicide in the Context of the Middle East"
Balci, Tamer. "From nationalization of Islam to Islamization of nation: Clash of Islam and secular nationalism in the Middle East"
Beck, Colin. "The Islamic Compromise: State Repression, Concession and Political Islam"

Supplementary:
Acevedo, Gabriel. "Is There Such a Thing as Islamic Fatalism: Classic Social Theory Speaks to the ‘Clash of Civilizations’ Debate"
Khan, Mahruq. "Islamic Fundamentalism, Modernity and the Role of Women"

**Week Seven: Islamic Fundamentalism in Egypt, Syria and Jordan**
(March 3-5)
Barry Rubin, "Comparing Three Muslim Brotherhoods: Syria, Jordan, Egypt"
Gilchrist, James, "Challenge to Cairo: Is the Muslim Brotherhood a Moderating Influence in Egyptian Politics?"
Lamm, Jennifer. "The Effects of Globalization on Religious Authority in Egypt: Islamic Banks and Azhar Sheikhs"
Adel Guindy, "The Islamization of Egypt"
Magdi Khalil, "Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood and Political Power: Would Democracy Survive?"

Supplementary:
David Zeidan, "The Ideology of Two Radical Egyptian Movements, Jamaʿat al-Muslimin (takfir wal-Hijrah) and Jamaʿat al-Jihad"
Kozak, Aysegul, "Islamic Parties and the State: Case Studies on Democratization of Turkey and Egypt"
Dhar, Soumia. "Egypt's Changing Civil Society: The Muslim Brotherhood and New Media"
Sahgal, Neha. "Changing Protest Behavior of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood"

**Week Eight: Islamism in Turkey**
(March 10-12)
Altinka, Evren. "Political Islam in Turkey: Beyond the Modernity?"
Tugal, Cihan. "The Appeal of Islamic Politics: Ritual and Dialogue in a Poor District of Turkey"
Tugal, Cihan. "Globalization, Politics and Contingency in Turkey's Shift to Islamism"

*Mid-term exam on March 12*
Week Nine: March 17-19: Spring Break, No Classes

Week Ten: Shiite Fundamentalism in Iran
(March 24-26)


Tezcur, Gunes Murat. "Being Pious under a Theocracy: Religiosity in Post-Khomeini Iran"

Supplementary:
Araghi, Farshad. "The World-Historical Origins of Pan-Islamic Nationalism in Iran"

Pierce, Tess. "Islam, Purdah, Poetry, and Sexual Politics of Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan"

Week Eleven: Islamic Fundamentalism in Lebanon and the Palestinian Territories
(March 31) April 2: Good Friday: No Classes

Yaakov Amidror, "The Hizballah-Syria-Iran Triangle"
Nizar Hamzeh, "Islamism in Lebanon: A Guide"

Rodger Shanahan, Hizballah Rising: The Political Battle for the Loyalty of the Shi’a of Lebanon

Haboub, Wael. "Demystifying the Rise of Islamic Political Parties: The Case of Hamas"

Supplementary:
Lybarger, Loren. "Political Constriction and Multidirectional Re-Framing of Palestinian Islamism during the Oslo Peace Process"

Zamkanei, Shayna. "Marrying Motherhood with Martyrdom: The Politics of Women and Jihad in Hamas"

Week Twelve: Islamic Fundamentalism in Indonesia, Malaysia and Pakistan
(April 7-9)

Respini, Blake. "Democracy, Islamism and Shariâ€™a Inspired Legislation in Indonesia"

Rinaldo, Rachel. "High Heels and Headscarves: Women's Clothing and Islamic Piety in Indonesia"

Jafar, Afshan. "Women, Islam, and the State in Pakistan"

Tamney, Joseph. "Modernization and Malaysian Islam"

Supplementary:
Saeed, Sadia. "Hailing the ‘Muslim Citizen’: State Nationalism and the Social Construction of the “Heretic” in Pakistan"

Rinaldo, Rachel. "Veiled Feminism: Islamic Religious Piety and the Women's Movement in Indonesia"

**Week Thirteen: Islamic Fundamentalism in Saudi Arabia and Iraq**  
(April 14-16)  
Joseph Kostiner, "State, Islam and Opposition in Saudi Arabia"  
Wurm, Iris. "Operation: Reforming the Kingdom, External and Internal Triggers of the Reform Process in Saudi-Arabia"  
Phillips, Andrew. "How Al Qaeda Lost Iraq"

**Supplementary:**  
Benoit, William and Zhang, Juyan. "The Message Strategies of Saudi Arabia’s Image Restoration Campaign after 9/11"  
Daryl Champion, "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Elements of Instability with Stability"  
Josh Pollack, "Anti-Americanism in Contemporary Saudi Arabia"

**Week Fourteen: Islamic Fundamentalism in Afghanistan and Rise of Al-Qaeda**  
(April 21-23)  
Benjamin Orbach, "Usama bin Laden and al-Qa’ida : Origins and Doctrines"  
Fiddner, Dighton. "Medieval Ideology and 21st Century Technology: Al Qaeda, Terrorism and the Internet"  

**Supplementary:**  
Felbab-Brown, Vanda. "Drugs and Instability in Afghanistan: The Taliban™s New Mobilization"  
Ely Karmon, "Al-Qa’ida and the War on Terror - After the War in Iraq"  
Richard H. Shultz, Jr. and Ruth Margolies Beitler, "Tactical Deception and Strategic Surprise in al-Qai’da’s Operations"

**Week Fifteen: Future Prospects**  
(April 28-30)  
Alexis, Gwendolyn. "SORRY, BUT IT'S THE LAW: The Westernization of Islam"

Das, Shyamal., Eargle, Lisa. and Esmail, Ashraf., ““Coexistence Of” or “Clash Between” Islamic Orthodoxy and the Support for Democratic System: Which Face is More Egalitarian in Six Muslim Societies?”  
Ana Soage  
"Shaykh Yusuf al-Qaradawi: Portrait of a Leading Islamist Thinker"

*Course Evaluations*  
*Final Exam*