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**Religious Studies 3130A – Islam and Politics**

**Fall 2021**

**Instructor:** Ingrid Mattson, PhD

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 Department of Theology, Room A227

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 \*Note that email is the preferred method of communication

 Office Hours schedule by appointment, held on zoom

**Time and Days:**  Mondays 6:00 – 8:30 pm **Room:** W8

**Course Description**

This course examines Islamic political thought and practice from the Medina Charter and the early Caliphate through contemporary movements and developments. Central topics include: theological justifications for various forms of state authority and political power, the pluralistic and the theocratic state, the authority of the state as interpreter and enforcer of Islamic norms and law, responses to colonialism and post colonialism, human rights, religious norms for political activism and representation in democratic nations.

**Learning Outcomes:** By the end of this class you should be able to:

* Identify critical decision points and crises in the first century of Islam that set the foundation for the development of a range of Sunni and Shi’ite political theories.
* Describe how religious and political authority remained intertwined but also increasingly diverged during the formative period of Islamic civilization.
* Show the political relationship between pre-modern non-Muslim religious communities and Muslim states.
* Explain the semantic range and application of religiously infused concepts in modern Islamic political discourse, such as “reform,” “renewal,” “shura” and “jihad”
* Identify religious justifications for various forms of political participation in the contemporary period.
* Conduct academic research on topics in Islam and politics using relevant, peer-reviewed sources.

**Textbook and Course Materials:** All class readings will be posted on OWL. You can find most books for book reviews and research through Western libraries or ILL.

**Assignments & Method of Evaluation**

Attendance and participation in class: 20%

Take-home test: 20%

Short essay 1: 20%

Short essay 2: 20%

Presentation on a modern Muslim political leader or activist (or activist group): 20%

**Detailed information about Assignments**

**Attendance and participation:** You must be present in class and ready to discuss the readings for a minimum of ten classes. We have 12 classes in total. If you are absent for more than two classes, you will have 2 points taken off our attendance grade for each subsequent class missed. See below for policies on medical absences or other accommodations.

**Take-home test:** Mostly short essays, between 500-800 words. You will be given some choice about the questions to be answered. You must submit your completed test in the OWL Dropbox at the designated due date.

**Short essays:** 800-1200 words on an assigned topic. Assigned at the end of class, due by noon on the day of the next class. No extensions without official Academic consideration (see policies below).

**Presentation**: In consultation with the professor, you will choose one modern Muslim political leader or activist to profile and present to the class. By “modern” I mean anyone who was born after 1800 c.e. By “Muslim” I mean someone (or some group) that publicly identifies as a Muslim and is affiliated with some Muslim community (Sunni or Shi`ite). Your presentation should:

* Draw upon at least five reliable sources including academic texts and original sources, such as newspapers
* Include quotes from the person profiled
* Show how the person draws upon Islamic discourse to promote their political views
* Provide historical context for their ideas
* Evaluate their impact, positive and negative
* You may present your information in PowerPoint or in the form of an essay.
* You will have 15 minutes for your presentation
* You must include a list of your sources in the presentation.
* You must submit the presentation or essay to the professor by the day of the presentation.

**Bibliography:** Attached at the end of this outline. Can be used to help start research or prepare for presentation.

**Syllabus/Class Schedule**

**\*subject to change**

**\*note that some readings are only required of RS 5200 students**

**Week 1: September 13 – Introduction**

* Fred Donner, “The Near East on the Eve of Islam,” Chapter 1 of *Muhammad and the Believers at the Origins of Islam.*
* [Extra background for those who are interested: Ingrid Mattson, Chapter 1 of *The Story of the Qur’an: Its History and Place in Muslim Life.*

**Week 2: September 20 – Medina**

* Read: Ingrid Mattson, Chapter 2 of *The Story of the Qur’an: Its History and Place in Muslim Life.*
* Read: Covenant of Medina (Ibn Ishaq)

**Week 3: September 27 – Caliphates and Religious Diversity**

* Ira Lapidus, “The Caliphate,” Chapter 4 of *A History of Islamic Societies*
* Hugh Kennedy, “The Caliphate of the Shi`ites,” Chapter 7 of *Caliphate: The History of an Idea* (New York: Basic Books, 2016).
* (RS 5220) Graham Fuller, “Islam Meets Eastern Christianity,” Chapter 4 of *A World Without Islam*

**Week 4: October 4 – Classical Theories of Governance**

* Jennifer A. London, “The ‘Circle of Justice’,” in *History of Political Thought*
* Mawardi (d. 5th/11th c.) reading from *The Ordinances of Government*
* Ibn Khaldun (d. 9th/15th c.) – reading from *al-Muqaddimah*
* Banan Malkawi and Tamara Sonn, “Ibn Taymiyya on Islamic Governance,” Chapter 6 of *Islam, the State, and Political Authority.*

\*Take-home test distributed.

**No Class: October 11 – Thanksgiving**

**Week 5: October 18 - Religious Authorities and the State**

\*Take-home test due.

* George Makdisi, “The Law of Waqf,” from *The Rise of Colleges: Institutions of Learning in Islam and the West*
* Jo-Ann Gross, reading from *Khojar Ahrar: A Study of the Perceptions of Religious Power and Prestige in the Late Timurid Period* (NYU doctoral dissertation, 1982).

**Week 6: October 25 – The Impact of 1492**

* Reading from Alan Mikhail, *God’s Shadow: Sultan Selim, His Ottoman Empire, and the Making of the Modern World,* pp. 89 – 135.
* Khaled Abou El Fadl, "Islamic Law and Muslim Minorities: The Juristic Discourse on Muslim Minorities from the Second/Eighth to the Eleventh/Seventeenth Centuries"

**Week 7: October 27 – The Ottomans**

* Donald Quataert, “Ottoman Methods of Rule,” Chapter Six of *The Ottoman Empire: 1700-1922.*

\*Short essay topic #1 for RS 3130 distributed.

**No Class: November 1 – Reading Week**

**Week 8: November 8 – Muslim Responses to Colonialism and Post-Colonialism**

\*Short essay 1 for RS 3130 due before noon.

\*\*Presentation of Book Reports by RS 5220 students

* Sarah Ansari, “The Islamic World in the Era of Western Domination, 1800-Present”

**Week 9: November 15 – The Islamic State is the Solution**

* Esposito, “Modern Islamic Reform Movements,” from *Islam the Straight Path,* 5th ed/, 148-193.
* M.A. Muqtedar Khan, “The Political Philosophy of Islamic Movements”

**\*Short essay 2 for RS 3130 distributed**

**Week 10: November 22 – The (Islamic) State is not the Solution**

* ʿAli ʿAbd al-Rāziq, “The Caliphate and the Bases of Power,”
* Anas Malik, “Minarchist Political Islam,” Chapter 10 of *Islam, the State, and Political Authority.*
* Asma Afsaruddin, “Theologizing about Democracy: A Critical Appraisal of Mawdudi’s Thought,” in *Islam, The State, and Political Authority: Medieval Issues and Modern Concerns.*
* (RS 5220) Mohsen Kadivar, “*Wilayat al-faqih* and Democracy,” Chapter 11 of *Islam, the State, and Political Authority.*

\*Short essay 2 due before noon.

**Week 11: November 29 – Islam, Constitutionality and Democracy**

* Nazli Bilgili, “Religiosity and Support for Democracy: A Contribution to the Compatibility Debate Through a Comparative Perspective,” in *Religion and Representation: Islam and Democracy*
* Asifa Quraishi, “Separation of Powers in Muslim Governments,”
* Nevin Reda, “From the Canadian Shariʿa Debates to the Arab World: Developing a Qurʾan-Based Theology of Democracy,” from *Religion and Representation: Islam and Democracy,* pp. 78-100.
* Tawakkol Karman, Nobel Lecture, Oslo, December 10, 2011. <https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/2011/karman-lecture_en.html>
* (RS 5220) Mohammad Fadel, “Political Legitimacy, Democracy and Islamic Law: The Place of Self-Government in Islamic Political Thought,” in *Journal of Islamic Ethics* 2 (2018): 59-75.

**Week 12: December 6 – Islam and Political Power Today**

\*Political Person or Organization Presentation by RS 3130 students

* (RS 5220) Sherman Jackson, “Politically Speaking, who am I, and what do I want as an American Muslim?” [Politically Speaking, Who Am I, And What Do I Want As An American Muslim?\*- Dr Sherman Jackson - Lamppost Education Initiative](https://lamppostedu.org/politically-speaking)
* (RS 5220) Usaama al-Azami, “Abdullāh bin Bayyah and the Arab Revolutions: Counter-revolutionary Neo-traditionaism’s Ideological Struggle against Islamicism,” *The Muslim World,* v. 109 (July 2019): 343-361.

**\*December 13:** Final Paper due for RS 5220

**Appendix to Course Outlines:**

**Huron Academic Policies & Regulations 2021 - 2022**

**Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information**

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

**Student Code of Conduct**

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

**Attendance Regulations for Examinations**

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

1. A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
2. Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here: <https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf>.

**Statement on Academic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: <https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf>. The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website: <https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf>.

**Turnitin.com**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism.  All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

**Statement on Use of Electronic Devices**

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

**Statement on the Recording of Class Activities**

Students may not record or distribute any class activity, including conversations during office hours, without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student’s own private use.

**Academic Consideration for Missed Work**

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at
<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf> are met.

Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at
<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf> .

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

**Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence**

1. **Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising**

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, and if the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported absences, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform_15JUN.pdf). The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

1. **Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email** **huronsss@uwo.ca****.**

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Forms/Academic%20Consideration%20Request%20Form%202020.pdf). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: <https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf>. Consult [Huron Academic Advising](https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

**Support Services**

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services at huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>

Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>

Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1>

Learning Development and Success: <https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>

Accessible Education: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>

Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

**Mental Health & Wellness Support at Huron and Western**

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca

Community Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca

Chaplaincy: gthorne@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

**ISLAM AND POLITICS**

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**Political Activism, Resistance, Liberation Theology and Peace-Building**

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