

"Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens." • Jimi Hendrix

ISLAMIC MOVEMENTS AND MODERNITIES

• RELI 250 •

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"spring" 2020
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Office hours:
Monday 11 am - noon *in Religion office*
Thursday 5 - 6 pm *in Usdan commons*
& by appointment

This course endeavors:

- (1) To understand the dynamics of specific Islamic movements;
- (2) To appreciate the diversity among Muslims and their socio-political contexts; and
- (3) To critically explore and question the meaning of "modernity" and consider the possibility of multiple modernities.

Please read each day's material in the order indicated, prepare a response to the focus question, and (once a week) provide a journal entry

A beginning

Jan 27 We begin...

Individuals make movements: Malcolm from Nation of Islam to Muslim Mosque, Inc. – US

Jan 29 Malcolm X, chs. 10-12
Powerpoint: A Sketchy Outline of Islamic Traditions • NOTE: Learn red terms

Feb 3 Malcolm X, chs. 13-14
Literacy quiz #1

Feb 5 Reader: Stuart Hall, "The Question of Cultural Identity"

Feb 10 Malcolm X, chs. 15-16
Map quiz

Feb 12 Malcolm X, chs. 17-19

Theorizing modernity: imperialism, capitalism, hegemony – Terra

Feb 17 Reader: Björn Wittrock, "Modernity: One, None, or Many? European Origins and Modernity as a Global Condition"
Reader: Dale Eickelman, "Islam and the Languages of Modernity"

Feb 19 Reader: Talal Asad, "Introduction: Thinking about Secularism"

Feb 24 Reader: William Wilson Hunter, from *The Indian Musalmans*
Reader: Sir Sayyid Ahmed Khan, "Review of Hunter's *Indian Musalmans*"

Feb 26 Reader: Jalal Al-e Ahmad, from *Gharbzadegi* [Weststruckness], chs. 1, 9, 10
Analysis paper #1 due

Doing it their own way: Islamic nationalism – Pakistan & Afghanistan

Mar 2 Reader: Sudipta Kaviraj, “Modernity and Politics in India”
Reader: Ifthikar Malik, “Islam, Muslim Nationalism & Nation-Building in Pakistan”

Mar 4 Abbas, Introduction, chs. 1-2
Literacy quiz #2

oooooooooooo **SPRING BREAK – Yeeeeeeeeee-haaaaaaa!**
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Mar 23 Abbas, chs. 3-4

Mar 25 Abbas, chs. 6-7

Mar 30 Abbas, chs. 8-9

The Salafi movement & a dissatisfied Wahhabi: Osama bin Laden & al Qaeda and Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi & the so-called Islamic State – transnational

Apr 1 Reader: Roel Meijer, “Introduction”
Reader: Bernard Haykel, “On the Nature of Salafist Thought and Action”: pp 51-57 only (rest optional)

Apr 6 Reader: Nilüfer Göle, Snapshots of Islamic Modernities
Reader: Osama bin Laden selections

Apr 8 Reader: Charles Kurzman, “Bin Laden and Other Thoroughly Modern Muslims”
Reader: Sadek Hamid, “The Attraction of ‘Authentic’ Islam”

Apr 13 Reader: Abdel Bari Atwan, *Islamic State: The Digital Caliphate*, chs. 1, 5, 7
11.55 pm – RAW paper thesis, outline, & bibliography due

Challenging norms of freedom: The Women’s Mosque Movement – Egypt

Apr 15 Pay those taxes, Americans!
Mahmood, ch. 1

Apr 20 Mahmood, ch. 2
Analysis paper #2 due

Apr 22 Mahmood, ch. 3

A, excellent; B, good; C, fair; D, passing but unsatisfactory; E, failure; and F, bad failure.

http://www.wesleyan.edu/registrar/academic_regulations/academic_standing.html

Honor System •••••

Students are expected to abide by the Honor System in regard to all work and participation in this class. For details, see pages 4-7 of

<http://www.wesleyan.edu/studentaffairs/studenthandbook/StudentHandbook.pdf>

Curmudgeonly notice •••••

The use of computers, tablets, and cell phones is not allowed in the class. While I appreciate that some students may find it easier to type than write, the unfortunately inevitable web surfing, Facebooking, and texting by a few students distracts the rest, and the prof. Plus, if you have seen *Westworld*, *Battlestar Galactica*, *Ex Machina*, or any number of *Star Trek* episodes, I think you'll agree with me that we don't want to bring computers into our classrooms and make them any smarter than they already are. Students with a documented need are exempt from this anti-modern diktat.

Accessibility resources •••••

Wesleyan University is committed to ensuring that all qualified students with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, its programs and services. To receive accommodations, a student must have a disability as defined by the ADA. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact [Accessibility Services](#), located in North College, rooms 021/022, or call 860-685-5581 to arrange an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations.

PLEASE! Once you have obtained documentation, don't hesitate to discuss with us your needs for accommodation.

Small writing mistakes that make a BIG difference

The key to successful writing is **SIMPLICITY** and **DIVERSITY**. Clearly express yourself in ways that makes reading enjoyable.

Before you write anything, you should know **who your audience is** and what style best suits their expectations. Unless instructed otherwise, you should assume that university papers need to be formal. Avoid a conversational style.

Avoid passive and '-ing' verbs. Active verbs give power to a sentence.

• e.g., Babe was acting like a dog → Babe acted like a dog.

Avoid 'to be' verbs in favor of **active verbs** which express more.

• e.g., She is courageous → She works courageously.

Spellcheck is not enough. You must **proofread** your work and can best accomplish this by reading aloud to yourself. Your ear often picks up mistakes your eye will not.