CIEE Amman, Jordan

Course title: Islam in the Modern Context
Course code: MEST 3001 AMJO
Programs offering course: Middle East Studies
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 3
Contact hours: 45
Term: Spring 2020

Course Description

This course covers a number of areas of Islamic thought in the contemporary world. It sheds light on the development of theories, philosophies and debates shaping and influencing reformist movements, cultural transformations, and the Muslim way of life. The emphasis is on primary texts where major thinkers grapple with the existential matters of change and continuity, such as liberalization, politics and democratization, human rights, women's rights. On the practical side, some fiqh responses to challenges posed by modern applications of science and technology in the fields of ecology and biomedical ethics will be explored.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Examine the different trends in modern Islamic thought
- Value the contribution of major Islamic thinkers in the modern era, such as Iqbal, Qutb, Shari'ati, among others and situate the developments in Islamic thought into their historical contexts
- Examine the development in fiqh rulings concerning biomedical and ecological policies
- Analyze some key concepts and paradigms representative of the different schools of thought

Course Prerequisites

A basic knowledge of Islam, its sources, and a general idea about its history can be helpful.
Methods of Instruction

- Instructor-led and Lectures
- Lecture- discussions
- Demonstrating whether by instructor or where students are involved or asked to demonstrate the material
- Collaborating
- Simulation
- Cooperative learning
- Role play
- Teaching by learning
- Problem based and inquiry learning
- The basic method followed in this course is discussion centered on original texts by contemporary Muslim thinkers, plus the instructor's and students' presentations.
- Group work is required.
- Individual students are expected to write a research paper

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Research Paper and Assignments 10%
2. Class Presentation 10%
3. Midterm Exam 30%
4. Final Exam 40%
5. Class Participation and Homework 10%

TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Research Paper and Assignments

Research papers or assignments and exams will include problems that require investigation, discussion, critique and solution suggestions. They will be evaluated based on the correctness of your analysis and coherence of your argumentation.

As grades for assignments, you will receive full credit for the efforts you put into the completion of the assignments. Points will be deducted for incomplete assignments or late assignments. I encourage you to work on the assignments in groups of FOUR
or FIVE students, and hand in a single typed report of your answers. In this case, everyone in the group will receive the same mark.

Class Presentation

You are required to give a class presentation of your analysis on one problem from the assignments. The presentations will be evaluated based on the correctness of your analysis and the clarity of your presentation.

Midterm Exam
Final Exam

The Midterm and Final Exam will be held in-class and will include problems that require investigation, discussion, critique and solution suggestions. They will be evaluated based on the correctness of your analysis and coherence of your argumentation.

Class Participation and Homework

Students should take part and participate in the discussions of the class material in every meeting.

Student should submit a summary/ note/ brief introduction to the subject of every lecture/ Homework.

Individual student and groups need to give a short presentation about the subject discussed in certain lectures.

Attendance

Students must attend all scheduled class sessions unless they are ill (with a doctor note), or have a pre approved absence from the CIEE Student Services Manager.

N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.
Weekly Schedule

Week 1
Class: General Introduction

Islam and Muslims, historical background, internal and external influences; representative figures, Islam in the Modern World. Sunni Islam, Shi'i Islam.

Reading:
- A. Adawi, Islamic Studies, pp. 1-76

Week 2
Class: Modern Islam and the issue of Ijtihad,

and objective of Islamic law and teachings.

Reading:
- A. Adawi, Islamic Studies, pp. 1-76
- Fahd alOa dah, Who Should Perform Ijtihâd?

Assignment:
- A Discussion on Independent Juristic Reasoning in Islamic Law,
- General Supervisor of the Islam

Week 3
Class: Islam and Human Rights

Reading:
Class: Islam and Woman's Right

Reading:

- Prof. Abdur Rahman I. Doi, WOMEN IN THE QURAN AND THE SUNNA, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaire.
- Vivienne Stacey, Women in Islam, St Francis Magazine Nr. 4 Vol. III (March 2008).

Week 5
Class: Pluralism, Democracy in Islam

Reading:


Week 6
Class: Midterm Exam

Week 7
Class: Spring Break

Week 8
Class: Islam and Environment

Reading:


Week 9
Class: Islamophobia and Extremism

Reading:

Week 10
Class: Islam and Family

Reading:


Week 11
Class: Punishment Law in Islam

Reading:


Week 12
Class: Students' Presentations of Research Papers

Week 13
Class: Students' Presentations of Research Papers

Week 14
Class: Students' Presentations of Research Papers

Week 15
Class: Final Exam

Course Materials
Readings

Interfaith:

2. Quranic Motivation for interfaith dialogue, Musharaf Hussain ,Chairman Christian Muslim Forum (uk).


Islam and west:

1. Abdul Malik Mujahid , 14 ways you can fight Islamophobia, This is a second version of an earlier article.


10. Shahzad Ali Muhammad Khalid and Muhammad Idrees Lodhi, Negative Image of Islam And Usmass Media: How To Improve The Image Of Islam Nad Muslim Countries. University, Multan, Pakistan.

Contemporary Issues:

5. VIVIENNE STACEY, WOMEN in ISLAM, St Francis Magazine Nr. 4 Vol. III (March 2008).