

Islamic Political Thought

This course aims to provide an introduction to the major themes in Islamic political thought. While the initial classes will be focused on classical Islamic thought, the rest of the course will be premised on the relationship between Islamic thought and the modern world. We will discuss how Muslim thinkers have grappled with issues such as colonialism, nation-states, womens' and minority rights and the question of violence. We will also explore how Islam has played a role in consolidating (and dividing) political communities in the Muslim World. Finally, the course will study the disparate responses of Muslims to the global "War on Terror" and the twin phenomenon of rising religious fundamentalism and Islamophobia.

P.s. this is not a theology class, so we will not be delving too deeply into the theological differences between different sects. Instead, the course will focus on the political thought emanating from the Muslim world in response to questions of political sovereignty.

Week 1

Introduction to course

Introduction to Islamic Thought

Week 2

Gerhard Bowering

Islamic Political Thought: An Introduction

Week 3

Shahab Ahmad

Six Questions about Islam

Week 4

Hossein Nasr

The Heart of Islam

Classic Islamic Thought

Week 5

Al-Ghazali

Deliverer from Error

Week 6

Ja'far Sobhani

Doctrines of Shi'i Islam

Islam in the Modern World

Week 7

Jamal Al-Din Al-Afghani

An Islamic Response to Colonialism

Week 8

Muhammad Iqbal

Reconstruction of Islamic Thought

Week 9

Sayyid Qutb

Milestones

Islam and Political Revolution

Week 10

Ali Shariati

What is to be Done?

Week 11

Malcolm X

Collection of Speeches

Week 12

Layli Ud-Din

Mao-Lana Bhashani: Maoism and the Unmaking of Pakistan

Week 13

Amna Wadud

Inside the Gender Jihad

And

Asma Barlas

Engaging Islamic Feminism: Provincializing feminism as a master narrative

Week 14

Mahmoud Mamdani

Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: America, the Cold War and the Roots of Terror

Week 1

Final Exam

GRADE TABLE PLSC 305: ISLAMIC POLITICAL THOUGHTS**SEMESTER: FALL 2021****Marking style: Mix** (Please see the marking style for individual activity below)**INSTRUCTOR: M. USMAN FAROOQ**

No.	Course Activity	Marks	Percentage of final grade	Assessment criteria	Time and Date of the Exam	Marking Style
1	Mid-Term	20	20%	Oral Exam	Will be held on the dates according to our academic calendar	Absolute Marking
2	Final Exam	20	20%	Oral Exam	Will be held on the dates according to our academic calendar	Absolute Marking
3	Research Paper	20	20%	Written assignment (on Individual basis)	Last date to submit your final research paper is 15 th February 2022	Absolute Marking
4	Colloquium on research paper	10	10%	Video recorded Individual Power point presentation on the research paper	Monday 3 rd January till 8 th January	Absolute Marking
5	Class Participation 1	10	10%	Group Presentation on an assigned text by the instructor	Will be assigned according to our weekly course plan	Absolute Marking
6	Class Participation 2	10	10%	Individual Presentation on a text, outside of our course readings but related to our course material	In the last two weeks of our classes	Relative Marking
7	Class Participation 3	10	10%	Cross-Questioning all the presentations	In every presentation held in the class	Relative Marking
Total	7 Activities	100 Marks	100%			

Details of Each Class Activity

1) Mid-Term Exam (20 Marks): Oral Exam

Your midterm exam will be oral and will be assessed in absolute marking style. It will be structured into around 10 subjective questions, extracted from your course readings that we already discussed in the class, and will be research induced in their nature and you will be required to do good research on the phenomenon asked in the question. Further details of your mid-term are as followed:

- I. I will assign you all the exam questions at least 1 week prior to our official midterm date for this semester
- II. I will give you 15 minutes time for your oral exam on zoom the structure to which will be as followed:

I will give you the first 5 minutes to present an answer (to speak about the answer) to the question that you will be assigned in your final exam. One good quality answer will be enough for this exam. But if your answer to the first question won't be that impressive I will ask you a 2nd question (This way you will know that I am not satisfied (you already know what grade is not-satisfied) with your performance so far in the exam, and you should also know that if I ask you a 2nd question it means you have already lost some marks in your midterm/final exam.)

If there is only one question asked then the next 5 minutes I will cross question you. And the last 5 minutes I will like to have a general discussion and will ask for your personal analysis of the phenomenon discussed in the question.

If there is, a need for a 2nd question then we will increase 5 minutes time and our exam will take its maximum time which 20 minutes

I will announce your result right at the end of our oral exam (before disconnecting our zoom call).

2) Research Paper (20 Marks): Individual Written Assignment

By the end of the course you are required to submit a “research paper” (Individually written paper) on the topic directly related to the themes and content of our course and approved by your instructor. Here is a complete guide to writing a research paper specifically designed for the students of comparative politics:

<https://www.sciencespo.fr/departement-science-politique/sites/sciencespo.fr.departement-science-politique/files/Guidelines%20for%20research%20paper%20Comparative%20Politics%202019.pdf>

3) Colloquium on Research Paper

This activity is designed to assist your research paper writing and research. You will be required to present your presentation in powerpoint or other similar programs. You will have to make the video of this presentation and send it in our whatsapp group, or upload on google drive and share the link in our class whatsapp group. Your presentation will be of 10 minutes in total and In your presentation, you will introduce your research topic, theoretical approach, research methodology, research question and objectives and the justification of your topic (explaining how your topic is connected to our course). At the end of your presentation you can ask question(s) if you have any problem in your research paper from the participants and the instructor. The colloquium will be conducted in two online sessions on a weekend. Every presentation will be heard online during those sessions and we will have a question answer session of 10 minutes by the end of each presentation.

Please Note: For privacy purposes, all the presenters are free to make an audio powerpoint presentation (if the desire so). As long as you have a clear approach in your content and your make it presentable, audio or video does not matter to me.

4) Class Participation 1 (10 Marks): Group Presentation on an assigned text by the Instructor

For every class session, there is a reading. Each reading of the course will be assigned to a particular group to prepare a comprehensive 10 minutes powerpoint presentation (audio/video both are allowed) on it. We will have a lecture on that phenomenon by the instructor and later question answer session on the text. The students will make the groups and the instructor for this activity will assign reading.

5) Class Participation 2 (10 Marks): Individual Presentation on a text, outside of our course readings but related to our course material

You are required to select a research article, research essay, research paper, book chapter etc that is not part of our class readings but directly related to our course content and prepare a comprehensive 10 minutes powerpoint presentation (audio/video both are allowed) on it. This is not a group activity rather individual. You will select the topic and the dates to present in the last two weeks of our class.

6) Class participation 3 (10 Marks): Cross-Questioning all the presentations

All participants of the course are required to cross-question wherever is asked by the instructor. In this course students can cross-question every presentation without any exception. Your cross-questioning will be recorded by the class representative and instructor and you will be assessed based on the number of good academic question you will ask.

7) Final Exam (20 Marks): Oral Exam

Your midterm/final exam will be oral and will be assessed in absolute marking style. It will be structured into around 10 subjective questions, extracted from your course readings that we already discussed in the class, and will be research induced in their nature and you will be required to do good research on the phenomenon asked in the question. Further details of your mid-term are as followed:

I will assign you all the exam questions at least 1 week prior to our official midterm date for this semester. I will give you 15 minutes time for your oral exam on zoom the structure to which will be as followed:

I will give you the first 5 minutes to present an answer (to speak about the answer) to the question that you will be assigned in your final exam. One good quality answer will be enough for this exam. But if your answer to the first question won't be that impressive I will ask you a 2nd question (This way you will know that I am not satisfied (you already know what grade is not-satisfied) with your performance so far in the exam, and you should also know that if I ask you a 2nd question it means you have already lost some marks in your midterm/final exam.)

- 1) If there is only 1 question asked then the next 5 minutes I will cross-question you. And the last 5 minutes I will like to have a general discussion and will ask for your personal analysis of the phenomenon discussed in the question.
- 2) If there is a need for 2nd question then we will increase 5 minutes time and our exam will take its maximum time which 20 minutes
- 3) I will announce your result right at the end of our oral exam (before disconnecting our zoom call).