

Module Title: Muslim Politics

o Introduction to the Module [GRB]

The writers of this module assume that the reader has a prior knowledge of Islam and Muslim societies, and a willingness to be open in her reading of materials from diverse academic sources. All the essential readings are contained within the online resources, but students are encouraged to follow up on these sources in greater detail, particularly in areas in which they have a personal interest. This includes purchasing books in areas of interest.

The content of this module pack reflects that it is written from within a Humanities context, linked into the fields of Theology and Religious Studies, for postgraduates with varying levels of interest in 'Islamic Studies'. The approach of political anthropologists and political scientists to similar materials would be substantially different (although no less valid), and this module does draw on many inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary frameworks in presenting its material. A key element of this module is the interaction between and within 'religion' and 'politics', if indeed that can be defined separately in some Muslim contexts. It is recognised that 'Muslim politics' may be seen as an oxymoron, although it represents in this case a useful umbrella term for a variety of approaches to understanding the roles of Islam within contemporary political frameworks. The material itself can be challenging in nature, depending on the reader's individual perspective towards notions of Muslim politics, which may themselves undergo a process of reappraisal during the course of this module.

The subject matter is constantly shifting, particularly following world events. These will eventually be reflected in the module pack, as academic material becomes available on the subject. Some titles in the reading list already reflect these developments. Contact Gary Bunt for recommended reading and advice on this area.

This module does not seek to convert the reader to a particular religious or political perspective, but does encourage the reader to become involved in the debate about the extremely dynamic and 'live' issues the subject represents. This debate may take place in the pages of module work, but students are equally encouraged to discuss these issues in seminars.

Module Aims and Objectives

This module seeks to introduce key themes associated with Muslim politics, in selected frameworks and understandings, as they relate to contemporary contexts.

Muslim Politics is divided into inter-related sections. You are encouraged to read all sections of the module. However, it is acknowledged that there is substantial reading involved in completing this module. At the minimum, you should read the individual numbered sections on Moodle. You may then wish to focus on sections of particular interest to yourself. The underlying themes of the module – which are integrated throughout the module and its associated reading - are as follows:

Themes

- a) Introduction to political concepts associated with Islam
- b) The roles and historical backgrounds of political Islamic platforms.
- c) Defining key terminology, sources and conceptual frameworks associated with 'Muslim politics'
- d) Muslim Religious Authority
- e) Contemporary political issues associated with Islamic frameworks

These themes are explored, with varying degrees of emphases, with reference to the following regional and global frameworks (in alphabetical order):

- a) Afghanistan [GRB]
- b) Egypt [DEA]
- c) Iran [GRB]
- d) Iraq [MID]
- e) Malaysia [GRB]
- f) Pakistan [GRB]
- g) Palestine [DEA]
- h) Saudi Arabia [MID]

Letters in parenthesis refer to section authors: Gary R. Bunt [GRB], Dawoud El-Alami [DEA], Mawil Izzî Dien [MID]. Dr El-Alami and Prof. Mawil Izzî Dien are no longer at the university, and as the sections were written some years ago, there may be scope to update their introductions through your own readings.

How to approach this module

The module commences with three substantial sections outlining *Theoretical Approaches* to the subject matter. These should be read in conjunction with the set book, which must be read in its entirety after reading sections 1-3.

You will find that the module sections on specific countries are of different lengths, commencing with two country *Case Studies* (Malaysia and Pakistan). The case studies will offer a detailed approach and template towards the study of Muslim politics in other areas, as well as integrating some of the key theoretical themes and concepts.

These are followed by briefer *Introductions to Muslim Politics in Regional Contexts*. These will guide you to the further reading, contained within the module pack. Note: due to the complexity and quantity of the subject matter, not every country can be covered in the module pack (otherwise we would have required several separate modules!).

Technical Note

This pack constitutes the work of three contributors. This is reflected in the different spellings of some key terms, and variations in referencing style. For ease of reading, transliterated diacritic marks have generally been avoided. Opinions and interpretations contained in this module reflect the views of individual contributors to sections, unless otherwise stated.

Set book:

The set book is:

Dale Eickelman & James Piscatori. *Muslim Politics* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996). This is available electronically via the library.

Whilst published in 1996, this is still recognised as an important introductory study on the subject area, and a solid basis for future studies. Two experts (based at Dartmouth, USA, and Oxford respectively) draw together a broad range of sources and examples of 'Muslim politics' into an accessible format, and providing a solid theoretical underpinning which is relevant to contemporary understandings. When read in conjunction with the materials provided in this module pack, the set book will open up what is a complex but fascinating (and extremely relevant) subject area. Students are encouraged to read the entire book, which is accessible and informative in nature, and should complement the directed reading within this module.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of this module the student will be able to:

- read and apply a variety of source materials critically and empathetically
- develop methodological and epistemological frameworks appropriate for the study of Islam
- engage with a range of religious, political, cultural and social issues associated with Islamic Studies
- interpret and express balanced and informed independent opinion on significant issues, drawing on appropriate methodological tools

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Essential

- Armajani, Jon. *Modern Islamist Movements: History, Religion, and Politics* (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011)
- Abu-Rabi', Ibrahim M. (ed), *The Contemporary Arab Reader on Political Islam*, (London, Pluto Press, 2010)
- Anderson, E.W. & Anderson, L.D., *An Atlas of Middle Eastern Affairs*, (London: Routledge, 2010)
- Eickelman, D. & Piscatori, J., *Muslim Politics* (Princeton NJ.: Princeton University Press, 1996)
- Esposito, J, L, (ed), *Oxford Islamic Studies Online* (online resource).
- Mandaville, P., *Global Political Islam*, (London: Routledge, 2007)
- Mandaville, P., *Islam and Politics*, (London: Taylor & Francis, 2014)
- Tibi, Bassam. *Islam in Global Politics*, (London: Routledge, 2012)

Recommended

- Akbarzadeh, S. *Handbook of Political Islam* (London: Routledge, 2012)
- Baker, R.W., *Islam without Fear, Egypt and the New Islamists*, (Cambridge, MA. & London: Harvard University Press, 2003)
- Daly, M.W., *The Cambridge History of Egypt Vol. 2, Modern Egypt, from 1517 to the End of the Twentieth Century*, (Cambridge University Press, 1998)
- Delong-Bas, N., *Wahhabi Islam: From Revival and Reform to Global Jihad*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004)
- Ghonim, W., *Revolution 2.0*, (New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012)

Halliday, F., *Islam and the Myth of Confrontation* (London: I.B. Tauris, 1995)

Kepel, G., trans. Ghazaleh, P., *The War for Muslim Minds, Islam and the West*, (Cambridge, MA., & London: Belknap Press, 2004)

Lahoud, N., and Johns, A.H. (eds), *Islam in World Politics* (London: Routledge, 2005)

Lawrence, B.B. (editor) & Howarth, J. (translator), *Messages to the World: The Statements of Osama Bin Laden* (London: Verso, 2005)

Mandaville, P., *Transnational Muslim Politics, Reimagining the Umma*, (London and New York: Routledge, 2001)

Marty, M.E. & Appleby, R.S. *Fundamentalism* series of five volumes (University of Chicago Press, 1991-5).

Mehmet, O. *Islamic Identity and Development: Studies of the Islamic Periphery*, (London: Routledge, 1990)

Meijer, R. *Global Salafism: Islam's New Religious Movement*, (London: Hurst & Co, 2009)

Milton Edwards, B., *Contemporary Politics in the Middle East*. (Polity Press, Cambridge, 2000)

Mitchell, R. P. *The Society of the Muslim Brothers*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1969, reprinted 1993).

Mutalib, Hussin, & Taj ul-Islam. (Editors). *Islam, Muslims and the Modern State: Case-Studies of Muslims in Thirteen Countries*, (New York: St. Martins Press. 1994)

Nasr, S.H., *Traditional Islam in the Modern World* (London: Kegan Paul International, 1987)

Rahnema, A. *Pioneers of Islamic Revival*. (Zed Books, London 1994)

Rashid, A., *Taliban: Islam, Oil and the New Great Game in Central Asia*, (London: IB Tauris, 2000)

Roberson, B.A. (Editor), *Shaping the Current Islamic Reformation* (London & Portland: Frank Cass, 2003)

Saad-Ghorayeb, A., *Hizbu'llah: Politics and Religion*, (London: Pluto Press, 2002)

Shaikh, F., *Making Sense of Pakistan*, (London, Hurst & Co., 2009)

Starr, S., *Revolt in Syria: Eye-Witness to the Uprising*, (London: Hurst & Co, 2012)

Internet:

You are encouraged to use the Internet as a research tool, to *supplement* conventional academic material. The URLs contained in this module are incorporated into the text, in order to provide useful supplements to the conventional course materials. They are helpful because they frequently provide alternative perspectives, or difficult to obtain material. Their content is externally generated, and is not the responsibility of the authors of the module or the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. URLs can change without notice: whilst all resources were checked at the time of going to press, there may be subsequent adjustments. Please advise Gary Bunt if any link is broken.

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