

**ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM**  
**Rlgs 766**  
**Cross listed with Globalization 766**

**Professor Liyakat Takim**  
**Office: University Hall 116**  
**2:30 – 3:30 or by appointment**

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**The Course**

The course will examine the rise and appeal of Islamic Fundamentalism. Why and when did the fundamentalist movements begin? Why do many Muslims find the fundamentalist movements appealing? In documenting the growth and appeal of fundamentalist religious tenets among segments of the Islamic community, it becomes apparent that the fundamentalist enterprise has become or seeks to be a potent force on the geo-political stage. The course will also compare and contrast the diverse movements. It will be argued that there are more differences than similarities between the fundamentalist movements.

No prior knowledge of Islam is required.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Regular attendance and active participation in the class are mandatory.

**Reading assignments:**

Tibi – The Challenge of Fundametalism

Beverly Milton-Edwards, *Islamic Fundamentalism since 1945* (Routledge, 2005)

Kelsay, *Arguing the Just War in Islam*

**Grade Composition**

Attendance and participation	10%
Mid-Term Research paper	20%
1 class presentation	15%
Final exam	35%
Site Visit Report	10%
Lecture Critique	10%

**Attendance**

Attendance at every class is mandatory. If you are not able to attend a class, please let me know beforehand.

### **Research Paper**

Each student is expected to write a research paper on a topic that must be discussed beforehand with the instructor. The paper must be based on a variety of sources, not just on books or articles assigned in class.

### **Class Presentation**

Every student is also required to make one classroom presentation on a topic to be discussed in class. Please contact me to discuss your topic of presentation

**Sept. 15:**                   **Islam: An overview**  
**Christian-Islamic encounters**

Readings:                   The Challenge of Fundamentalism Tibi 82-113  
Armstrong: The Battle for God 29-78  
Beverly Milton-Edwards: *Islamic Fundamentalism*  
*Since 1945*, 31-51

**Sept. 22:**                   **The rise of Islamic Fundamentalism**  
**Wahhabism**

Readings:                   Natana J. Delong-Bas, *Wahhabi Islam*, 7-40  
Khaled Abou El Fadl, "The Ugly Modern and the Modern  
Ugly," in O. Safi (ed.) *Progressive Muslims*, 33-62

**Sept. 29:**                   **The Muslim Brotherhood**

Readings:                   Richard Mitchell, *The Society of the Muslim Brothers*, 1-34  
Ibrahim Abu-Rabi', *Intellectual Origins of Islamic Resurgence*  
*in the Modern Arab World*, 62-91

**Oct 6.**                       **No class**

**Oct. 13**                    **Reading Week**

<b>Oct. 17 &amp; 18</b>	<b>Hooker Lecture</b>
<b>Oct. 20:</b>	<b>Hizbullah</b> Film: The Shi'ites – Awaiting the Imam
Readings:	Ibrahim Abu-Rabi', <i>Intellectual Origins of Islamic Resurgence in the Modern Arab World</i> , 92-165 Judith P. Harik, <i>Hezbollah: The Changing Face of Terrorism</i> , 7-52
<b>Oct. 27</b>	<b>Sayyid Qutb</b>
Readings:	Sayyid Qutb: <i>Milestones</i> , Chaps 4-10
<b>Nov 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Site Visit</b>
<b>Nov. 10</b>	<b>Islamic Fundamentalism and the West</b>
Readings:	TBA
<b>Nov. 17</b>	<b>Islamic Jihad</b>
Readings:	Beverley Milton-Edwards: <i>Islamic Fundamentalism Since 1945</i> , 70-91 Kelsay: <i>Arguing the Just War in Islam</i> , 97-155
<b>Nov. 24</b>	<b>Hamas</b>
Readings:	Tibi, <i>The Challenge of Fundamentalism</i> , 199-214 Ziad Abu-Amr, <i>Islamic Fundamentalism in the West Bank and Gaza</i> , 53-89
<b>December 1</b>	<b>Islamic Fundamentalism in the West</b>
Readings:	Roy: <i>Globalized Islam</i> 1-110

## **Dec. 8 Course Overview**

### **Policies**

#### **DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC**

Staff in the office of the Department of Religious Studies will not date-stamp or receive papers and other assignments.

#### **UNIVERSITY MANDATED**

##### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

##### **AVENUE TO LEARN**

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

##### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca). For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

##### **POLICY FOR MODIFYING A COURSE**

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check her/his McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

##### **E-MAIL COMMUNICATION POLICY**

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

### **MCMASTER STUDENT ABSENCE FORM**

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work". Please note these regulations have changed beginning Spring/Summer 2015. The timeframe within which the MSAF is valid has been reduced from 5 days to 3 days. The upper limit for which an MSAF can be submitted has been reduced from 'less than 30%' to 'less than 25%' of the course weight. As per the policy, students must immediately follow up with their instructors to request accommodation for any missed academic work. Failure to do so may negate their relief. If you have any questions about the MSAF, please contact your Associate Dean's office.

### **TURNITIN.COM**

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).