

ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM
Winter 2021

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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 Fundamentalism

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 25%

2 class presentations 30%

Final exam 35%

Attendance

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

Mid-Term 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 two presentations on a topic to be discussed in class. Please contact me to discuss your topic of presentation

Jan 11: **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

Jan. 18: **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

Jan 25: **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

Feb 1. **No class**

Feb. 8: **Hizbullah**
Film: The Shi'ites – Awaiting the Imam

Readings: Ibrahim Abu-Rabi', *Intellectual Origins of Islamic Resurgence in the Modern Arab World*, 92-165
Judith P. Harik, *Hezbollah: The Changing Face of Terrorism*, 7-52

Feb. 15 **Sayyid Qutb**
Readings Sayyid Qutb: *Milestones*, Chapt 4-10

Feb 22 **Islamic Fundamentalism and the West**
Readings: TBA

Mar 1 **Reading Week**

Mar. 8 **Islamic Jihad**
Readings: Beverley Milton-Edwards: *Islamic Fundamentalism Since 1945*, 70-91
Kelsay: *Arguing the Just War in Islam*, 97-155

Mar 15 **Hamas**
Readings Tibi, *The Challenge of Fundamentalism*, 199-214
Ziad Abu-Amr, *Islamic Fundamentalism in the West Bank and Gaza*, 53-89

Mar 22 **Islamic Fundamentalism in the West**
Readings Roy: *Globalized Islam* 1-110

Mar 29 **Course Overview**

[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 POLICIES:

Departmental

Staff in the office of the Department of Religious Studies will not date-stamp or receive papers and other assignments. Students must submit their assignments in class or to the TAs or professor during their office hours.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

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. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

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. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the *Academic Integrity Policy*, located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster’s use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

Courses with an On-line Element

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, 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 a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Online Proctoring

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the *Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities* (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online.**

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s *Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities* policy.

Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): 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”.

Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of

term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.