

**RELIGION AND POLITICS IN PAKISTAN & AFGHANISTAN:
CONTEMPORARY ISSUES (INTS 4878)
Fall 2009**

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Office Hours: Friday, 10:30-12:30 (In Cybercafe)
(Or by appointment)

Course Description

“A purely contemporary view of any problem is necessarily a limited and distorted view. Every situation has its root in the past....the past survives into the present; the present is the past undergoing modifications.”
(Phillipson and Adebo1955:118)

This course focuses on the study of contemporary religio-political issues and challenges prevailing in politics of Pakistan and Afghanistan. An attempt will be made to understand the process of the *politicization of religion* and the *religionization of politics* in Pakistan and Afghanistan from 1977 to the post 9/11 political scenario at national and regional levels. The central argument of this course is that current religio-political turmoil in the region needs to be studied through a deeper understanding of the historical and material basis of the existing socio-political and religious institutions. The course will mainly revolve around such questions as:

- (a) Why at a certain point in time during the 1970s, did the world observe a forceful entry of religion into the national politics of these countries? (Military dictatorship's Islamization policies in Pakistan in 1977; Socialist revolution in Afghanistan in 1978 and entry of the Soviet forces in 1979)
- (b) How have these historical occurrences changed the domestic religio-political institutions and policies?
- (c) How have the national historical occurrences since 1977 changed the fabric of regional/international politics?
- (d) What are the trends and patterns of the domestic/regional religious politics in the post 9/11 Era?

It is expected that by the end of this course, students will be able to (1) understand the historical roots of the present religious and political structures in the region; (2) critique current patterns of role played by religion in national and international politics; (3) compare and contrast similarities and differences among the contemporary religio-political institutions and policies of the two countries; and (4) analyze impact of regional religious politics on international relations.

Readings

Books

Following books are available at the DU Book Store.

1. Nigosian, S. A. *Islam: Its History, Teachings, and Practices* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press) 2004
2. Abbas, Hassan, *Pakistan's Drift into Extremism: Allah, the Army and America's War on Terror* (London: M. E. Sharpe) 2005
3. Dorronsoro, Gilles, *Revolution Unending: Afghanistan, 1979 to the Present* (New York: Columbia University Press) 2005
4. Magnus R. H. & Naby, *Afghanistan: Mullah, Marx, and Mujahid* (Boulder: Westview Press) 1998

Ereserve

Articles and chapters from related books are available on ereserve system of the Penrose Library.

Access to Ereserve.

- 1) Click on the Course Reserves link on the Penrose Library website <http://library.du.edu/FindIt/Reserves/index.cfm>, and search by course number or instructor name
- 2) Log in to Web Central, select the Resources tab, and click on Electronic Course Reserves
- 3) The e-reserve password for this course is PakistanAU09. You will need this password in order to access e-reserves through the library website.

(Note: Ereserve readings are subject to change according to the fast-changing situation in the region.)

Traditional Reserve

Following book will be available on traditional reserve. You can ask for the required book at the circulation desk at Penrose Library.

Cook, David, *Martyrdom in Islam* 2007.

Malik, I.H. *Jihad, Hindutva and the Taliban* 2005.

Gohari, M.J. *The Taliban* 2000.

Malik, Jamal, *Madrasas in South Asia: Teaching Terror?* 2008.

Course Requirements and Grading

- **Class Participation Presentation 30%**

Students are expected to read all the assigned readings before coming to class and participate in the discussion related to the weekly topics. General class participation can be in the form of *questions, comments and concerns*. Besides, every week, one or two students (depending on the size of class) will be asked to make a short presentation based on the required weekly readings and lead discussion for at least 30 minutes. Class discussion will be based on two or more questions, which should be sent to me one day before this class. Questions can be formulated after reading the assigned weekly articles/chapters along the following lines;

- Terms and concepts, which you do not understand.....
- Points on which you disagree with authors' argument or explanation.....
- Points which you want to discuss with fellow students in form of a question.....

Please bring copies of the main points and synthesis of the readings and questions for everyone on the day of your presentation. One presentation and regular participation by each student throughout the course will account for 30% of the grade.

- **Comparative Analytical Research paper 70%**

Guidelines for comparative-analytical paper will be provided by Week Three of the Quarter. An elaborate outline and abstract will be due by Week Nine. Paper due: November 20, 2009.

(If due to unavoidable circumstances you have to be absent in the class, you need to turn in a summary and critical overview of the assigned reading material for that week. Otherwise, it would affect your attendance and class participation grade percentage)

NO LAPTOPS OR CELLPHONES IN THIS CLASS PLEASE !!!!!

Weekly Topics

Week One 09/16/09

Introduction

Discussion on weekly topics, reading assignments, presentations and final paper

Islam: Origin and expansion

Note: No reading assignment for Week One.

Week Two 09/23/09

Islam: Expansion, Assertion and Confrontation

Islam: Key sources and ideas (The Quran, Sharia, Islamic state, Jihad, Martyrdom)

Required readings

Nigosian, Ch. 1-5

Cook, David, *Martyrdom in Islam* 2007. Ch. 2, 8 (**Book available on traditional reserve**)

Malik, I.H. *Jihad, Hindutva and the Taliban* 2005. Ch. 1 (**Book available on traditional reserve**)

Week Three 09/30/09

Political Islam: A theoretical overview

Required readings

Lapidus, Ira (1996) "State and religion in Islamic societies: Past and Present" **Ereserve**

Akbarzadeh, and Saeed, (2003) "Islam and politics" **Ereserve**

Halliday, Fred (1995) "The Politics of Islam: A Second Look." **Ereserve**

Nasr, S.V. R. (1995) "Democracy and Islamic Revivalism" **Ereserve**

Turner, Bryan S, (2003) “Class, Generation and Islamism: Towards a global Sociology of Political Islam” **Ereserve**

Nasr, Vali, Islam and Democracy: Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan

Friday, November 4, 2005 Washington, D.C. (Question answer session) **Ereserve**

Week Four 010/07/09

Religion as a unifier and legitimizer: Pakistani politics from 1947-1979

Required readings

Abbas, Ch. 1-6

Richter, William (1979) “The Political Dynamics of Islamic Resurgence in Pakistan” **Ereserve**

Richter, and Gustafson (1980) “Pakistan 1979: Back to Square One” **Ereserve**

Week Five 10/14/09

Religion as a mobilizer, protester and political legitimizer: Pakistani politics: 1979-2001

Required readings

Abbas, Ch. 7-8

Haqqani, Husain (2002) “Islam’s medieval Outposts” **Ereserve**

Malik, I.H. *Jihad, Hindutva and the Taliban* 2005. Ch. 5 (**Book available on traditional reserve**)

Week Six 10/21/09

Religion as a militant political force in Pakistan: International Implications: Post 9/11 scenario

Required readings

Abbas, Ch. 9-11

Malik, Jamal, *Madrasas in South Asia: Teaching Terror?* 2008 Ch. 4 (**Book available on traditional reserve**)

Week Seven 10/28/09

Religion as a legitimizer and de-legitimizer: Afghanistan From Kingship to Communism

Required readings

Magnus & Nabi, Ch. 1, 2, 4

Dorronsoro, Ch. Introduction, 1

Ahmed, Feroz and Paul Jim (1980) “The Khalq failed to comprehend the contradiction of the rural sector” **Ereserve**

Week Eight 11/04/09

Religion as a mobilizer, justifier and warrior: Afghanistan from Communism, Jihad, Civil war to the Taliban: 1980-1996

Required readings

Donronsoro, Ch. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Magnus & Nabi, Ch. 5, 6

Halliday, Fred (1998) "The Communist Regime in Afghanistan 1978-1992" **Ereserve**

Week Nine 11/11/09

Religion as a legitimizer and state-builder: Afghanistan under the Taliban: 1996-2001

Required readings

Dorronsoro, Ch. 7, 8, 9

Magnus, Ralph (1997) "Afghanistan in 1996: Years of the Taliban" **Ereserve**

Simonsen, Sven Gunnar, "Ethnicising Afghanistan" **Ereserve**

Gohari, M.J. *The Taliban* 2000. Ch. 3 (**Book available on traditional reserve**)

Week Ten 11/18/09

Religion as a protester and warrior again: Afghanistan since 9/11: International and regional challenges

Required readings

Dorronsoro, Ch. 10, 11, 12

Pakistan-Afghanistan: A comparative analysis of religio-political dimensions

Wrap-up session