

POLI262501: Islam, the Muslim World, and Democratic Politics

Boston College Summer Session 2019

Credits: 3

Summer 1 (May 15- June 19)

Room: TBA

Monday/ Wednesday 6- 9:15 p.m.

Professor David M. DiPasquale

Office: 204B McGuinn Hall

Office Hours: Tuesdays 4-6 p.m. and by appointment

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Boston College Mission Statement

Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Course Themes

What is the relationship between Islam and democracy? Are human rights located in the Koran or some other, more human, source? Are the appeals to an Islamic government or "State" based on fact or fiction? How might we appeal to the sacred sources of Islam to promote attitudes of toleration, inclusion, and respect? These and similar questions will be considered throughout the semester. The purpose of this course will be to use the events related to the Arab Winter and continuing instability throughout the Muslim world as a springboard for a critical evaluation of the respective merits of the two forms of regime. No prior acquaintance with Islam or the Arabic language is necessary or required.

Course Texts (also found at Course Reserves in O'Neill Library):

- Required:
1. Averroes, The Decisive Treatise (Brigham Young)
 2. Francis Bacon, An Advertisement Touching a Holy War (uploaded to Canvas)
 3. Richard Bulliet, The Case for Islamo-Christian Civilization (Columbia)
 4. John Esposito, Islam: The Straight Path (5th edition updated, Oxford)
 5. Bernard Lewis, What Went Wrong (Harper)
 6. John Locke, A Letter Concerning Toleration (Hackett)
 7. Benedict de Spinoza, A Theologico-Political Treatise (Dover)

All remaining texts (in PDF format) are to be found on the course Canvas site.

Canvas

Canvas is the Learning Management System (LMS) at Boston College, designed to help faculty and students share ideas, collaborate on assignments, discuss course readings and materials, submit assignments, and much more - all online. As a Boston College student, you should familiarize yourself with this important tool.

Course Format, Requirements, and Objectives

This course will have a lecture-discussion format. You will be expected to read the assigned texts before the class for which they are assigned so that you may actively participate in the discussion. You must bring with you to class the texts that are to be discussed; failure to do so will lower your participation grade for the class. Attendance is required and will be recorded. One unexcused absence will be permitted. Each successive absence will yield an attendance grade of F for that day. Boston College policies on incompletes and academic integrity will be strictly enforced. By the end of this summer session, you should be able to demonstrate a grasp of the subject matter through written exercises as well as class participation.

Course grades will be determined in the following manner:

35% In-class midterm exam

45% In-class final exam

20% Performance on unannounced in-class quizzes and classroom participation

The dates and times of the Midterm and Final Exams are set and are non-negotiable. Please consult your travel itinerary, as no make-up exams will be permitted. Failure to complete assignments by posted due dates will result in a final course grade of F.

CLASSROOM COURTESIES AND BEHAVIORAL REQUIREMENTS

During each classroom session there will be strict enforcement of the following:

- 1. NO use of computers or cell phones;*
- 2. Bathroom breaks permitted ONLY during the TWO scheduled recesses of each class session.*

Boston College Statement on Academic Honesty

“The pursuit of knowledge can proceed only when scholars take responsibility and receive credit for their work. Recognition of individual contributions to knowledge and of the intellectual property of others builds trust within the University and encourages the sharing of ideas that is essential to scholarship. Similarly, the educational process requires that individuals present their own ideas and insights for evaluation, critique, and eventual reformulation. Presentation of others' work as one's own is not only intellectual dishonesty, but also undermines the educational process.” The internet has increased the opportunities for academic dishonesty. Students should be aware that presenting the work of others so that it appears to be their own work is a violation of moral and professional standards, one that the University treats very seriously. **Students are forewarned that University policies will be strictly enforced in this class;** that the University is well aware of various internet “services” that supply essays, summaries, etc.; and that the University Library actively investigates suspected cases of plagiarism by means of a database of hundreds of thousands of essays.

“What is plagiarism? In minor cases, it can be the quotation of a sentence or two, without quotation marks and without a citation (e.g., footnote) to the true author. In the most serious cases, a significant fraction of the entire work was written by someone else: the plagiarist removed the true author(s) name(s) and substituted the plagiarist's name, perhaps did some re-formatting of the text, then submitted the work for credit in a class (e.g., term paper or essay) or as part of the requirements for a degree (e.g., thesis or dissertation).” Ronald B. Sandler, “Plagiarism in Colleges in USA,” <http://www.rbs2.com/plag.html>. The Boston College Policy on Academic Dishonesty is available in the Student Handbook and includes the following: **“Plagiarism** is the act of taking the words, ideas, data, illustrations, or statements of another

person or source, and presenting them as one's own. Each student is responsible for learning and using proper methods of paraphrasing and footnoting, quotation, and other forms of citation, to ensure that the original author, speaker, illustrator, or source of the material used is clearly acknowledged.”

Boston College Statement on Students with Disabilities

"If you are a student with a documented disability seeking reasonable accommodations in this course, please contact Kathleen Duggan, (617) 552-8093, dugganka@bc.edu, at the Connors Family Learning Center regarding learning disabilities and ADHD, or disabsrv@bc.edu, (617) 552-3470, in the Disability Services Office regarding all other types of disabilities, including temporary disabilities. Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations."

Instructional Model

I recognize that the material we will be covering in the class may present itself as peculiarly strange or intimidating at times, and that this may very well be the first time many of you have seriously considered works produced by Muslims living in pre-modern times. As a result, I will make myself available outside the classroom during normal office hours and am happy to establish alternate meeting times if those happen to be inconvenient—especially during the days prior to exams. I strongly urge each student to see me as soon as concerns arise.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Part I (week 1): *The West and Its Critics*

Week 1: (Wednesday May 15): Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, “A World Split Apart” (PDF)
The 9/11 Commission Report (PDF; selections)
Ayatullah Ruhullah Khomeini, “Islamic Government” (PDF), pp. 27- 60
September 11, 2001 hijacker field manual (PDF; trans. from the Arabic)
Osama bin Laden, “Declaration of War against Americans” (PDF)
Al-Qaeda: ““Why We are Fighting You”” (PDF)

Part II (week 2): *The Modern System of Rights and the Problem of Law*

Week 2: (Monday May 20): Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (PDF; selections)
The Koran (PDF; selections)
The Bible (PDF; selections)
Esposito, *Islam: The Straight Path*, ch. 1

(Wednesday May 22): Esposito, *Islam: The Straight Path*, ch. 2
Plato, *Minos* (PDF)
Aristotle, *The Politics* and *Nicomachean Ethics* (PDF; selections)
Pierre Manent, “Modern Democracy as a System of Separations” (PDF)

Part III (weeks 3- 3.5): The Interpretation of the Law

Week 3: (Monday May 27): **NO CLASS: MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY**

(Wednesday May 29): Averroes, *The Decisive Treatise* (selections)
Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im, "Shari'a and the Secular State in the Middle East and Europe" (PDF)
Noah Feldman, "What is Shariah?" (The New York Times)
Esposito, *Islam: The Straight Path*, ch. 3
Fareed Zakaria, *The Future of Freedom* (PDF; selections)

Week 4: (Monday Jun3):

MIDTERM EXAM

Benedict de Spinoza, *A Theologico-Political Treatise*, Preface, chs. 1-4, 6-7, 13-16, 18-20
Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (PDF), chs. 11-15
John Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*

Part IV (weeks 3.5-5): Jihad and Holy Wars

(Wednesday June 5): Francis Bacon, *An Advertisement Touching A Holy War* (PDF)
Esposito, *Islam: The Straight Path*, ch. 4
Ibn Khaldun, *The Muqaddimah* (PDF; selections)
Ibn Taymiyyah, *al-Siyasa al-Shar'iyya* (PDF; selections)
Averroes, *al-Bidayat al-Mujtahid* (PDF; selections)

Week 5: (Monday June 10): Majid Khadduri, *War and Peace in the Law of Islam* (PDF; selections)
Abdolkarim Soroush, *Reason, Freedom and Democracy in Islam* (PDF)
Abdou Filali-Ansari, "The Challenge of Secularization" (PDF)

(Wednesday June 12): Benjamin R. Barber, "Jihad versus McWorld" (PDF)
Ali Shariati, "Critical Attitude toward the West and the Idea of Western Decadence" (PDF)
Khaled Abou El-Fadl, "Islam and the Challenge of Democracy" (PDF)

Part V (week 6): Clash of Civilizations?

Week 6: (Monday June 17): Samuel Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* (PDF; selections)
Bernard Lewis, *What Went Wrong?* (selections)
Richard Bulliet, *The Case for Islamo-Christian Civilization* (selections)
Joseph Massad, *Islam in Liberalism* (selections)
Graeme Wood, "What ISIS Really Wants"
William McCants, *The ISIS Apocalypse* (2015, selections)
Jacob Poushter, "Views of ISIS in Muslim World"

(Wednesday June 19): **FINAL EXAM**