

**RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE**  
**Department of History**

**History 342: Islam and Politics in Modern History**

**Spring Semester**

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Prof. Thomas  
Office: Gaige 304/x8765

January 10, 2008

**Meetings, Office Hours and E-Mail:** History 342 meets W, 4-6:50. My office is in Gaige 304. My office hours are: M 11-12, 1-4 T 11-12, W, 11-12, 2-3, Th. 11-12. I am happy to make appointments for other reasonable times. My office phone is: 456-8765; the department phone is 456-8039. You can also get in touch with me at any time through **webct** and **email**. My address is listed above.

**Catalog Description.** *This course is a study of the causes, manifestations and forms of Islamic resurgence from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present. Islam's role in relationship to sociopolitical change is analyzed through selected case studies.*

**Course Purpose:** The dynamic role which Islam plays in the political history of the modern Muslim world is the focus of this course. It is analyzed in relationship to social, cultural, and economic changes which have occurred, with a focus on the modern period. Attention is given, however, to the pre-modern historical heritage which has and continues to have great influence in shaping the relationship between Islam and politics in the modern period. Throughout, emphasis is placed on the Islamic perspective on politics and governing, on the impact of various non-Islamic political ideologies, especially democracy, on the role of the state, socialization, education, health, sexual control, economic development, the changing status of women, cultural expression, the challenge of the West, and, most recently, globalization.

**Course Organization and Expectations:** H342 is a webct course. Apart from the basic text, all other readings and assignments including, discussions topics, quizzes and tests are available and taken though webct. An overview on how to use the H342 webct site will be given in the first class. To receive a grade, students are expected to complete all assignments as specified in the *calendar* below. These are two essays, a class presentation based on one of the essays, structured discussions, a mid-term and final exam. In each class I will provide a perspective on different aspects of the topic of the course: Islam and the Muslim relationship to politics. These presentations will not necessarily repeat or follow the text and other readings. Students are expected to be prepared for each class. This includes participation in class discussions. Class discussions will take place on two levels: structured-on the basis of readings--and unstructured-as a result of questions and issues raised during class. To this end, regular attendance is essential and required. Excused absences are those specified in the *Student Handbook*. Graduate students are expected to complete extra work in the

form of a research paper to receive graduate credit. Graduate students will meet individually with the instructor to discuss this component.

**Evaluation:** The following weights are given for work done in this course.

• Two critical essays	30%
• Mid-semester	25%
• Final Essay	25%
• Presentation	10%
• <u>Structured Discussion</u>	10%
<i>Total</i>	100%

**Materials:** The Required book can be purchased at the *Campus Store*. Other required materials will be made available through webct. Most of these readings will come from monographs, journals, newspapers in electronic format available in through the HELIN system or on the web and are some are accessible to you directly without accessing WebCT. Further information on this aspect will be provided in class.

- Milton-Edwards, Beverley, *Islam & Politics in the Contemporary World* (Cambridge: Polity Press)
- Articles, visual and audio materials, class handouts on WebCT
- Map of the Muslim World (distributed)
- Films

### Calendar of Assignments

**Note: Other than the first week, readings are to be completed by the time the class meets. There will be discussion in most classes around the readings for the week. All readings outside of the text will be available on webct. Additional readings are not listed but are available through webct. These will be identified well before they are due. Separate “handouts” will also be distributed for all assignments: essays, study guides for tests and discussion topics. These will be posted on webct.**

1. **Week of Jan. 23:** "Warm up"! Why study the Muslim world? Introduction to the Muslim world. Read, Milton-Edwards (hereafter, ) M-E, *Introduction*, chapter 1, and on webct article by Esposito, *Ten Things Everyone Should Know about Islam*.
2. **Week of Jan 30:** Islam, Muslims, Jews and Christians, practitioners of monotheist politics. Read, M-E, chapter 2 and Brown, *Islam, Judaism, and Christianity in Comparative Perspective*. Film: **Essay one directions distributed**
3. **Week of Feb. 6:** Political Authority and legitimization in Islamic history. Read on webct articles by Lapidus, Lewis, Pearson.

4. **Week of Feb. 13:** Unity and community in Islamic history, the roots of political pessimism. Read on webct Gibb and other articles to be specified. **Essay one due.** Discussion of essay readings.
  5. **Week of Feb. 20:** Discussion Pre-modern Muslim attitudes toward the state and its politics. Film. **Essay two directions distributed.**
  6. **Week of Feb. 27: Mid-term.** The Great Transformation: Islam and Politics in modern times. Read M-E, chapter 3 and on webct, Butterworth, Hurewitz and one other article to be specified.
  7. **Week of March 5: Mid-term returned.** Meeting the Western challenge-response from the political establishment: modernization and nationalisms. Read M-E chapter 4 and articles from webct to be specified.
  - **Spring Recess, week of March 10**
  8. **Week of March 19: Essay two due. Discussion of essay and readings.** Read M-E, chapter 5 and articles from webct to be specified.
  9. **Week of March 26:** Meeting the Western challenge-response from the anti-establishment and the emergence of modern Islamist politics after WW I. Read M-E, chapter 6. **Final essay distributed.**
  10. **Week of April 2:** :. Early ideologues of Islamic Resurgence its discourse.. Read M-E, chapter 7 and articles from webct. Film
  11. **Week of April 9:** Islam and Politics on the periphery: Indonesia and Malaysia; Presentations. Read articles from webct. **Presentations begin and continue to the end of the semester.** Film
  12. **Week of April 16:** Islam and Politics in on the periphery: North Africa and Europe. Read articles from webct.
  13. Week of April 23: The US and the Muslim world. The politics of *Islamphobia*, secular and religious. Film
  14. **Week of April 30: Islam and politics in perspective. Final essay due.**
- Final Exams Begin Tuesday, May 6.**