

Politics and Islām

ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

YEAR & SEMESTER	COURSE CODE	PREREQUISITES
Offered every semester	SC-PI-E	None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is intended to provide an understanding of the relationship between Islām, as a faith practiced by millions of devout believers, and politics, or the process of establishing and maintaining laws and stability through the rules established by a governing power. While the two areas of religion and politics seem to encompass very different spheres, the history and current state of Islām in the world shows that they are deeply intertwined. We will do an overview of major historical periods in Islāmic history, and then discuss some contemporary themes regarding Islām and Politics. We will be using a variety of literature, from Ahmadiyya history, to philosophical texts to critical academic pieces. We will develop a deeper appreciation of Islāmic history, Qur'ānic injunctions about politics, as well as current debates about the role of Islām in world politics. It will juxtapose academic scholarly pieces with religious works to showcase the similarities and differences between them, and to emphasize that secular analyses can be biased against religious forms of knowledge. An advanced understanding of the English language will be required for this course.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Read works of Islāmic history and understand their political context
- Compare Islāmic political structures to the modern liberal state
- Understand the history of Orientalism that governs depictions of Islām in the media and popular culture
- Gain familiarity with Islāmic thinkers from the medieval period to today

COURSE OVERVIEW

Unit 1: History of Islām and Politics

Unit 2: Themes in Islām and Politics

LEARNING DELIVERY FORMAT & REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- Online Learning
- Laptop or desktop computer with functional microphone