

Department of Political Science  
PSCI 3311B

**HISTORY OF MUSLIM POLITICAL THOUGHT**

**Time:** Wednesdays 2:30- 5:30

**Online course**

**Professor. Farhang Rajaee,** Phone: (613) 839-9981

**Office Hours:** by appointment through phone or Synchronous on WWW.

**Description:** The instructor focuses on the unfolding of political thought among Muslims from the formation of their first polity in Medina in 622 CE until the encounters of Muslims with the process of modernity that led to a complete rethinking of politics and society in the Muslim world. Within the worldview of Islam, Muslims thought about politics in variety of ways including juridical, practical, and administrative, or philosophical approaches. At the same time, their thinking could be categorized as dynamic responses that Muslims gave to the challenges in their respective historical contexts. Both the various approaches and the historical developments will be discussed in the course.

**Organization:** The material will be organized based on the approaches and variables i.e., those of the jurists, practitioners, and the philosophers as well as how they unfolded in Muslim history. In terms of the delivery of the materials, lectures will be the main medium although the instructor encourages questions and invites comments during the lectures (now due to the electronic medium in the last part of the class, which would be live and virtual).

**Required Text:** Anthony Black. *The History of Islamic Political Thought; from the Prophet to the Present*. New York: Routledge, 2001, ISBN 0-415-93243-2. (Pdf available on line)

**Note:** As the course progresses during the term, there might be some extra materials that will be put in the Cu-learn for you.

**Delivery of the course and your Questions:** I will have audio record of the lectures for each session (Two Lectures for each session, except the introductory and concluding lectures that would be one lecture for each). Every Wednesday (our normal scheduled session) from 4:45- 5:30, I will have Synchronous session that you can join and present your comments or questions (I will email you the links every week).

**Requirements:** Students must meet all the course requirements; attendance, mid-term, review(s), and the scheduled final examination. Students who do not meet these criteria will be assigned a grade of "F." Late essays will be penalized one fraction of a grade (i.e.,

B to B-) for each weekday they are late. All assignments must be handed to the instructor (no email). The mark will be calculated as follows:

The Mid Term Exam (take home) *	20% <b>(February 10)</b>
First Review **	20% <b>(February 24)</b>
Second Review ***	20% <b>(April 7)</b>
Final Exam (take home) ****	40% <b>(April 27)</b>

\* The first take-home exam will be based on the texts and the content of the lectures of the first four weeks of the class (Until February 3rd). It will consist of two parts: five short answer questions worth a total of 10%, and one long answer question for a total of 10%.

\*\*Your review should be about 3-4 pages (double space and typed). The material to be reviewed is one Chapter of your textbook, your choice. Your review should address at least the following questions: What is the main objective of the writer? How has the author done his/her research and presentation? Did he/she achieve the stated objective (s)?

\*\*\*Your review should be about 3-4 pages (double space and typed). The material to be reviewed is one of the recommended readings listed in the syllabus. Your review should address at least the following questions: What is the main objective of the writer? How has the author done his/her research and presentation? Did he/she achieve the stated objective (s)?

\*\*\*\* The final (take-home) exam will be based on the texts and the content of the lectures from February 3<sup>rd</sup> to the end of the term. It consists of two parts: 10 short answer questions worth a total of 20%, and two long answer questions for a total of 20%.

## Calendar

### **Week 1 (Jan. 13): The Course**

Introduction and Orientation  
Some Preliminary Remarks

## **Part One: The New Civilizational Context**

### **Week 2 (Jan. 20): The New Way of Life**

The Old/New Message  
Early Ideas of Ruling  
**Reading: Black (pp. 1-31)**

### **Week 3 (Jan. 27): The Two prevalent Paths**

The Sunnis and Tradition  
The Shi'as and Charisma  
**Reading: Black (pp. 32-49)**

### **Week 4 (Feb. 3): Other Influences**

The Persian Influence

The Greek Influence  
**Reading: Black (pp. 50-78)**

### **Part Two: Caliphate Based Polity**

#### **Week 5 (Feb. 10): The Caliphate and the Sultan**

The Theory of the Caliphate, Mawardi  
Rules for the Sultan, Nizam al-Mulk  
**Reading: Black (pp. 81-96)**

#### **Reading Week (February 15-19)**

#### **Week 6 (Feb. 24): The Need for Revival**

Reconstruction of Religious Science, Al-Ghazali  
Practical Politics, Al-Ghazali  
**Reading: Black (pp. 97-117)**

#### **Week 7 (March 3): Philosophy and Mysticism**

Philosophy and Knowledge  
Sufism and Work as Religion  
**Reading: Black (pp. 117-138)**

### **Part Three: Shari'a Based Polity**

#### **Week 8 (March 10): The New Challenges**

The Mongolian Invaders  
Integrated Polity, Tusi  
**Reading: Black (pp. 141-157)**

#### **Week 9 (March 17): Law and Power**

Shari'a based Polity, Ibn Taymiyya  
Civilization, and Power, Ibn Khaldun and Khunji  
**Reading: Black (pp. 158-192)**

### **Part Four: The Last Muslim Polities**

#### **Week 10 (March 24): The Ottomans**

The Caliph/Sultan  
The Societal Structure  
**Reading: Black (pp. 195-220)**

#### **Week 11 (March 31): The Safavids**

The Mystic/ Shah  
The Societal Structure  
**Reading: Black (pp. 223-239)**

#### **Week 12 (April 7): The Mughals**

The Infused Padishah  
The Societal Structure  
**Reading: Black (pp. 241-255)**

### Recommended Materials

To be used for doing your reviews.

Said Amir **Arjomand** (1984). *The shadow of God and the Hidden Imam: Religion, Political Order, and Societal Change in Shi'ite Iran from the Beginning to 1890*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

Gerhard **Bowering** (ed.) (2015). *Islamic Political Thought: An Introduction*. Princeton: Princeton University Press

Charles E. **Butterworth** (Tr.) (2001). *Al-farabi, the Political Writings: Selected Aphorisms and other Texts*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press (B753.F32 E5 2001).

Charles E. **Butterworth**. (Ed.) (1992). *The Political Aspects of Islamic Philosophy: Essays in Honor of Muhsin S. Mahdi*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press (B741.P74 1992).

P. M. **Holt**, Ann K. S. Lambton, and Bernard Lewis (Editors) (1970). *The Cambridge History of Islam*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (DS35.6.C3).

Patricia **Crone** (2005). *Medieval Islamic Political Thought*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Patricia **Crone** (2003). *God's Caliph: Religious Authority in the First Centuries of Islam*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (BP166.9.C76).

Carl W. **Ernst** (2003). *Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press (BP161.3.E76 2003).

Majid **Fakhry** (2004). *A History of Islamic Philosophy*. New York: Columbia University Press (B741.F23 2004).

Abu Nasr **Farabi** (1985). *Al-Farabi on the Perfect State: Abu Nasr al-Farabi's Mabadi' Ara' Ahl al-madina al-fadila*. A revised text with introduction, translation, and commentary / by Richard Walzer. Oxford: Oxford University Press (BP75. F33. M313).

Abu Nasr **Farabi** (1961). *Fusul al-madani; Aphorisms of the Statesman*. Translated by D. M. Dunlop. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (PN6277. A7.F3).

Muhammad **al-Ghazali** (1964). *Counsel for Kings*. Translated F. R. C. Bagely. Oxford: Oxford University Press (JC 393 A3 G453).

H. A. R. **Gibb** (1982). *Studies on the Civilization of Islam*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, (D199.3.G5).

Marshal **Hodgson** (1974). *The Venture of Islam*. 3 Volumes. Chicago: Chicago University Press (DS35.6. H63).

Kai Ka'us **ibn Iskandar** (1951). *Qabus-Nama (A Mirror for Princes)*. Translated from the Persian by Reuben Levy, New York: E.P. Dutton, 1951 (BJ 1678.P3K33 1951).

Abu al-Abbas Taqi al-Din Ahmad **Ibn Taimiyya** (1966). *Ibn Taimiyya on Public and Private Law in Islam or, Public Policy in Islamic Jurisprudence*. Translated from Arabic by Omar A. Farrukh. Beirut: Khayats (KBL I2I2 1968).

Ahmad **Kazemi Moussavi**, (1996) *Religious Authority in Shi'ite Islam*, Kuala Lumpur: International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization.

Majid **Khadduri** (1984). *The Islamic Conception of Justice*. Baltimore. MD: Johns Hopkins University Press (BP 173. 43K44)

Nelly **Lahoud** (2005). *Political Thought in Islam; a Study in Intellectual Boundaries*. New York: Routledge Curzon.

Ann K. S. **Lambton** (1981). *State and Government in Medieval Islam: an Introduction to the Study of Islamic Political Theory: the Jurists*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (JC49.L35 1981).

Ralph **Lerner** and Muhsin Mahdi. Eds. (2001). *Medieval Political Philosophy*. New York: Free Press of Glencoe (J82.L4).

Wilferd **Madelung** (1997). *The Succession to Muhammad: A Study of the Early Caliphate*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (Net Library)

Mushin **Mahdi** (1964). *Ibn Khaldun's Philosophy of History: A Study in the Philosophic Foundation of the Science of Culture* (D116.7.I3.M3).

Muhsin **Mahdi** (2001). *Al-Farabi and the Foundation of Islamic Political Philosophy*. With a Foreword by Charles E. Butterworth. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press (B753.F34M33 2001).

Hamid Manavi (2013). *Religious Authority and Political Thought in Twelver Shi'ism: from Ali to Post-Khomeini*. New York: Routledge (BP166.94.M28 2013).

Syed Abul Ala **Maudoodi** (1960). *Political theory of Islam*. Lahore: Islamic Publications (JC49.M442 1960).

Abu al-Hasan Ali Ibn Muhammad **Al-Mawardi** (1996). *The Ordinances of Government*. Translated by Wafa H. Whba. Reading: Garnet Publishing Limited (KBP2000 .M3913 1996).

Hanna **Mikhail** (1995). *Politics and Revelation: Mawardi and After*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press (JC49.M54).

Roy P. **Mottahedeh** (1980). *Loyalty and Leadership in an Early Islamic Society*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1980 (HN 656.A8M67).

Abu Ali Hassan **Nizam al-Mulk** (1978). *Book of government or Rules for Kings*. London, Routledge (JC49. N43 1978).

Erwin Jacob **Rosenthal** (1958). *Political Thought in Medieval Islam; an Introductory Outline*. Cambridge [Eng.] University Press (JA82. R6).

Franz **Rosenthal** (1960). *The Muslim Concept of Freedom Prior to 19<sup>th</sup> Century*. Leiden: Brill (JC585. R65 1960).

A. A. **Sachedina** (1988). *The Just Ruler (al-Sultan al-'Adil) in Shi'ite Islam: the Comprehensive Authority of the Jurist in Imamite Jurisprudence*. New York: Oxford University Press (JA 49. S162).

William Montgomery **Watt**. (1988). *Islamic Political Thought*. New York: Columbia University Press (JA84.I78W3 1968).

William Montgomery **Watt**. (1961). *Muhammad: Prophet and Statesman*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (BP75. W33).

William Montgomery **Watt**. (1963). *Muslim Intellectual: A study of al-Ghazali*. Edinburgh: The Edinburgh University Press (B753.G34W3).

#### Accommodations during COVID

Due to COVID, instructors will not request or require a doctor's note when students seek accommodation for missed term work or exams due to illness. Instead, students will be asked to

complete the self-declaration form available here: [https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19\\_Self-declaration.pdf](https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19_Self-declaration.pdf)

### Academic Accommodations

#### Pregnancy

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

#### Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

#### Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.

#### Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](https://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

#### Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: [students.carleton.ca/course-outline](https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline)

#### Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

More information on the University's Academic Integrity Policy can be found at:

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

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