Islam and Politics

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This course explores the relationship between Islam, politics, and political authority through a blend of political theory and Islamic political history. It examines major concepts like the caliphate, sultanate, sacred kingship, sovereignty and modern state while tracing their development across different Muslim societies.

We will move from caliphate through the sultanates and finally reach the modern state and understand how in these different eras, Islam and its relationship to politics was understood and debated not just by scholars but sultans, Sufis and bureaucrats.

In other words, this is primarily a historical overview of the major empires and institutions in Islamic history and how they were understood and incorporated in the Islamic world.

Another aim of this course is to understand how politics in Islam is understood in western academia by doing a close reading and engaging critically with the material. We hope that this will open new avenues for research by analysing the issues in current literature on Islam and its relationship to politics.

Course Curriculum

Lecture	Lecture title	Core readings	Supplementary readings
1	**Political Theology and Islam: What Is Politics in Islam?**	Paul Heck, *Islam and Political Theology*; Mufti Taqi Usmani, islam and politics"	Ovamir Anjum, *Politics, Law, and Community in Islamic Thought*; Patricia Crone, *Medieval Islamic Political Thought*; Sherman Jackson, *The Islamic Secular*
2	**The Caliphate: Theory, Institutions, and Historical Development**	Hugh Kennedy, *Caliphate: A History*; Hugh Kennedy, *The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphates*	Patricia Crone and Martin Hinds, *God's Caliph*; Andrew Marsham, *The Umayyad Empire*; Hugh Kennedy, *The Early Abbasid Caliphate*, *The Armies of the Caliphs*, and *The Court of the Caliphs*; Christophe Picard, *Sea of the Caliphs*
3	**Disenchanting the Caliphate: The Possibility of Secular Political Thought**	Hüseyin Yücesoy, *Disenchanting the Caliphate*	Sherman Jackson, *The Islamic Secular*; Patricia Crone, *Medieval Islamic Political Thought*; Ovamir Anjum, *Politics, Law, and Community in Islamic Thought*; Khan, *Heresy and the Formation of Medieval Islamic Orthodoxy* — supplementary reading
4	**The Sultanate: Historical Emergence, Political Authority, and Institutions**	Peacock, *The Great Seljuq Empire*; Crone, *Medieval Islamic Political Thought*; Eaton, *India in the Persianate Age 1000 - 1765*	Kennedy, *The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphates*; Anjum, *Politics, Law, and Community in Islamic Thought*; Cook, *A History of the Muslim World*
5	**Sacred Kingship I: Mughal Sovereignty and Religious Authority**	Moin, *The Millennial Sovereign*	Cook, *A History of the Muslim World*; Heck, *Islam and Political Theology*

6	**Sacred Kingship II: Ottoman Sovereignty and the Redefinition of the Caliphate**	Hüseyin Yılmaz, *The Caliphate Redefined*	Karateke and Reinkowski, *Legitimizing the Order: The Ottoman Rhetoric of State Power*; Nomer and Şahin, *Histories of Ottoman Political Thought*
7	**Reviving the Caliphate: Loss, Memory, and Modern Political Projects**	Hassan, *Longing for the Lost Caliphate*; Pankhurst, *The Inevitable Caliphate*	Aydın, *The Idea of the Muslim World*; March, *The Caliphate of Man*
8	**Ibn Khaldun: Political Authority, Social Cohesion, and Dynastic Change**	*Ibn Khaldun: Political Thought*, Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought—your listed edition	Patricia Crone, *Medieval Islamic Political Thought*; Michael Cook, *A History of the Muslim World*
9	**Shah Wali Allah: Political Order, Society, and Reform**	Ahmad Ghazali, *The Socio-Political Thought of Shah Wali Allah*	SherAli Tareen, *Shah Waliyullah Dihlavi;*
10	**Special Focus: The Ottoman State: Politics, Religion, Law, and Power**	Ayoub, *Law, Empire, and the Sultan*; Burak, *The Second Formation of Islamic Law*; Karateke and Reinkowski, *Legitimizing the Order*	Nomer and Şahin, *Histories of Ottoman Political Thought*; Hüseyin Yılmaz, *The Caliphate Redefined*; Ahmad F. Ibrahim, *Pragmatism in Islamic Law*; Noel Malcolm, *Useful Enemies*
11	**Islam and the Modern State: Sovereignty, Law, and Moral Authority**	Wael Hallaq, *The Impossible State*; Wael Hallaq, *"Radical Separation of Powers"*	Sherman Jackson, *The Islamic Secular*; Andrew March, *The Caliphate of Man*; Muhammad Qasim Zaman;
12	**Law, Scholars, and Political Authority**	Atcil, *Scholars and the Sultans*; Zaman, *Religion*	Anjum, *Politics, Law, and Community*; Hallaq, "Radical Separation of Powers"; Siddiqui, *Law and Politics under the Abbasids*; Quadri, *Transformations of*

		and Politics under the Early ʿAbbāsids;	*Tradition*; Siddiqui, *Law and Politics under the Abbasids*; Ibrahim, *Pragmatism in Islamic Law*;
13	**The Making of the "Muslim World"**	Aydın, *The Idea of the Muslim World*;	Hassan, *Longing for the Lost Caliphate*; Pankhurst, *The Inevitable Caliphate*
14	**Popular Sovereignty and Islamic Democracy**	March, *The Caliphate of Man*;	March, *The Caliphate of Man*; Hallaq, *The Impossible State*; Jackson, *The Islamic Secular*

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