



Faculty of Arts
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

ALMC 319.1
Fundamentalism and Modern Islam
Fall 2018

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Dr. Mushegh Asatryan

OFFICE LOCATION: CHE 322

OFFICE HOURS:

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 403-220-3241

E-MAIL: mushegh.asatryan@ucalgary.ca

DESCRIPTION

The course examines the emergence and history of fundamentalist thought and movements in modern Islam, beginning from the late 18th century, and up to the present day. Broadly defined, fundamentalism refers to the tendency (found in a variety of religious traditions), to return to the "fundamentals" of one's religion, to a time of pristine purity, coupled with a conservative and puritan outlook and the rejection of what one deems late, hence inauthentic, accretions. In Islamic history, among such movements one may mention the Wahhabi movement in the 18th century and Al Qaeda and ISIS today. Of course, these attempts to return to a pristine and pure state, the claims of their authors notwithstanding, are essentially modern. On the one hand, they rise in response to contemporary concerns – Western colonialism, inequality, corruption, to name a few. They also rely on cutting edge technology to communicate their messages and to recruit followers, such as print, radio, video-cassettes, and most recently, Facebook and Twitter.

During the course, we will read representative works that discuss the rise and development of the main fundamentalist movements in Islamic history, we will look at the ideologies developed by their leaders, the history of the movements, and at the broader historical context. To add more depth, we will also read one or two theoretical works that study the relationship between religion and political action on the one hand, and the relationship between religion and modernity on the other.

The student will be provided with several essential studies which s/he will have to read throughout the semester. Because this is an independent study, in the first week of classes, the student will be required to compile an additional bibliography of books and articles which will complement the already assigned readings, while allowing him/her to focus on their particular topic of interest.

I will have weekly meetings with the student, during which s/he will report on the assigned readings, and will discuss them in seminar-style. In the end, the student will have to write a 20-25 page-long research paper on a topic of his/her choosing.

OBJECTIVES

A broad knowledge of the history of modern fundamentalist movements and ideologies in the Islamic world. A theoretical sophistication in issues dealing with religion, modernity, and politics. The ability to conduct independent research, to express one's ideas clearly, orally and in writing. The ability to critically analyze religious-political discourses and to situate religious movements and ideas in their historical context.



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DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES

Compiling a bibliography – 10%

Participation and preparation (weekly reports on and discussion of the assigned readings) – 40%

Final paper – 50%

GRADING SCALE

A+		A	95 - 90	A-	89 - 85
B+	84 - 80	B	79 - 75	B-	74 - 70
C+	69 - 65	C	64 - 60	C-	59 - 55
D+	54 - 53	D	52-50	F	Under 50

REQUIRED TEXTS

Aziz Al-Azmeh, *Islams and Modernities, 3rd edition*

Bruce Lincoln, *Holy Terrors : Thinking about Religion after September 11, 2nd ed.*

Jilles Kepel, *Jihad, the Trail of Political Islam*

John Voll, *Islam : Continuity and Change in the Modern World, 2nd ed.*

Said Arjomand, *The Turban for the Crown*

Richard Mitchell, *The Society of Muslim Brothers*

Additional bibliography will be compiled by the student in the first week of classes.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

COURSE NOTES

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:

- a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
- b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
- c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.



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2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION ASSEMBLY POINTS

Craigie Hall: Professional Faculties food court (alternate: Education Block food court)

Education Block and Tower: Scurfield Hall atrium (alternate: Professional Faculties food court)

Kinesiology: north courtyard, MacEwan Student Centre (alternate: University Theatres lobby)

For the complete list of assembly points please consult <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts.

The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.



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Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it.

Please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

SAFEWALK

To request a Safewalk escort anywhere on campus, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, please call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help Phones.

Web: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

STUDENT UNION INFORMATION

Representatives and contact details: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

Student Ombudsman: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Writing skills should cross all disciplines. Students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office (<http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca/>) can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.