

San José State University
Humanities Department
RELS 156 – Islam, Politics, and the West, Spring 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor(s):	Dr. Arthur Zárate
Office Location:	CL 414N
Telephone:	(408-924-1364)
Email:	arthur.zarate@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Immediately after class M/W and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	M/W 4:30pm - 5:45pm
Prerequisites:	Upper-division standing or instructor consent.

Course Description

An in-depth look at the roots of Islamic tradition, law, politics, culture, and society. Emphasis on Islam's growing global prominence; relations with the West; stereotypes and misconception, as well as the nature of the Islamic state.

Course Format

Canvas

This course requires you to access the Canvas. Course materials, including the syllabus, assignments, readings, and more, will be posted on Canvas. Assignments will be turned in via Canvas.

Technology Requirements

This course is fully online. Students are required to have an electronic device (laptop, desktop or tablet) with a camera and built-in microphone. SJSU has a free equipment loan program available for students.

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have access to reliable Wi-Fi during tests. If students are unable to have reliable Wi-Fi, they must inform the instructor, as soon as possible or at the latest one week before the test date to determine an alternative. See Learn Anywhere website for current Wi-Fi options on campus.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the main contours of Islamic political history. You will be assessed on this outcome in your PRPs, DLs, and research paper.
2. Identify and discuss the key components and figures of Islamic political thought and practice. You will be assessed on this outcome in your PRPs, DLs, and research paper.

3. Identify and discuss the impact of European colonialism upon Islamic political thought and practice. You will be assessed on this outcome in your PRPs and DLs.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

All required readings will be made available to students as PDFs on Canvas. Students will read both primary and secondary sources.

Course Requirements and Assignments

In-class participation. Students are required to make at least 2 substantive comments, 1-point each, during in-class discussion, either verbally or in the chat function.

Personal Response Paragraphs (PRPs). Students are required to write 8 PRPs, 10 points each, to demonstrate their engagement and critical reflection on a particular week's readings. The PRPs should be at a minimum of 400 words. (See separate handout for further details).

Discussion Leaders (DLs). Students are required to serve 2 times as the Discussion Leader or Co-Leader for in-class discussion, 20 points each. The DL or DLs will provide a brief introduction to the readings and formulate questions to guide that class meeting's in-class discussion. (See separate handout for further details).

Research Paper. Students are expected to write a research paper of approximately 2000-2500 words (50 points). The topic must be selected in consultation with the professor. (A separate handout describing the research paper in detail will be distributed to students).

See the University's Syllabus policy below:

- University Syllabus Policy S16-9 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>.
- University's Syllabus Information web page at <https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>

University Policy S16-9, Course Syllabi (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>) requires the following language to be included in the syllabus:

Final Examination or Evaluation

There is a research paper.

For the University's Final Examination or Evaluation see

University policy S17-1 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf>) which states that "Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment."

Grading Information

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Grades will be based on performance in each of the four items identified in the chart below. Late assignments will be approved when you can provide documentation of illness or other circumstances beyond your control. Late assignments and papers will lose an entire letter grade each day they are late unless the student can provide documentation justifying the tardiness. More guidelines on grading information and class attendance can be found from the following two university policies:

- University Syllabus Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>)
- University Attendance and Participation Policy F15-12 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf>)
- University Grading System Policy F18-5 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F18-5.pdf>)

Determination of Grades

Assignments	Status	Due Date	Value
In-Class Participation	Required	daily	30 pts.
PRPs	Required	varies	80 pts.
DLs	Required	varies	40 pts.
Research Paper: Selecting a Research Topic and Question	Required	April 4	5 pts.
Research Paper: Thesis Draft and Annotated Bibliography	Required	May 3	5 pts.
Research Paper	Required	May 20	40 pts.
Total			200 pts.

Grade	Points	Percentage
<i>A plus</i>	192 to 200	96 to 100%
<i>A</i>	186 to 190	93 to 95%
<i>A minus</i>	180 to 184	90 to 92%
<i>B plus</i>	172 to 178	86 to 89 %
<i>B</i>	166 to 170	83 to 85%
<i>B minus</i>	160 to 164	80 to 82%
<i>C plus</i>	152 to 158	76 to 79%
<i>C</i>	146 to 150	73 to 75%
<i>C minus</i>	140 to 144	70 to 72%
<i>D plus</i>	132 to 138	66 to 69%
<i>D</i>	126 to 130	63 to 65%
<i>D minus</i>	120 to 124	60 to 62%

Classroom Protocol

This class is conducted online via Zoom. I expect you all to have your cameras on. If you cannot have your camera on during class, please reach out to me and I will make accommodations. Attendance puts you in good standing to earn participation credit. Cell phones must be silenced and put away during class.

Recording Zoom Classes

This course or portions of this course will be recorded for instructional or educational purposes. The recordings will only be shared with students enrolled in the class through Canvas. The recordings will be deleted at the end of the semester. If, however, you would prefer to remain anonymous during these recordings, then please speak with the instructor about possible accommodations (e.g., temporarily turning off identifying information from the Zoom session, including student name and picture, prior to recording).

Students are not allowed to record without instructor permission

Students are prohibited from recording class activities (including class lectures, office hours, advising sessions, etc.), distributing class recordings, or posting class recordings. Materials created by the instructor for the course (syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, presentations, etc.) are copyrighted by the instructor. This university policy (S12-7) is in place to protect the privacy of students in the course, as well as to maintain academic integrity through reducing the instances of cheating. Students who record, distribute, or post these materials will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office. Unauthorized recording may violate university and state law. It is the responsibility of students that require special accommodations or assistive technology due to a disability to notify the instructor.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

RELS 156 – Islam, Politics, and the West, Spring 2021 Semester, Course Schedule

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Readings, Assignments, In-class Activities
1	Jan. 27	Introduction Wed.
2	Feb. 1-3	Caliphate, Imamate, and Shari‘a <i>Secondary Source(s):</i> Antony Black, <i>History of Islamic Political Thought</i> , pg. 9-56 <i>Primary Sources:</i> Peters, <i>A Reader in Classical Islam</i> , pg. 109-113 sections, 7-8; pg. 117-127, sections 10-13; pg. 133-150, sections 17-23; pg. 227-239 sections, 11-15.
3	Feb. 8-10	Religion and the State in Islamic Society <i>Secondary:</i> Antony Black, <i>History of Islamic Political Thought</i> , pg. 57-117 <i>Primary:</i> Tuesday: Al-Farabi, <i>Selected Aphorisms</i> , pg. 11-20 Thursday: “Ghazali on the Larger Context of Islamic Governance,” pg. 380-381; “Juwayni on Commanding the Good and Forbidding the Reprehensible” pg. 369-371
4	Feb. 15-17	Sultanates <i>Secondary:</i> Antony Black, <i>History of Islamic Political Thought</i> , pg. 132-185 Tuesday: Nasir al-Din al-Tusi, “Nasirean Ethics,” pg. 187-195

Week	Date	Readings, Assignments, In-class Activities
		Thursday: In class activities
5	Feb. 22-24	<p>Muslim Empires</p> <p><i>Secondary:</i></p> <p>Antony Black, <i>History of Islamic Political Thought</i>, pg. 195-255</p> <p><i>Primary:</i></p> <p>Tuesday: Jalal al-Din al-Dawani, “Dawani’s Ethics,” pg. 377-387</p> <p>Thursday: “Muhammad Baqir Najm-i Thani on Justice and Discipline,” pg. 382-384</p>
6	Mar. 1-3	<p>Islam and in the Age of European Imperialism I</p> <p><i>Secondary:</i></p> <p>Charles Tripp, Ch. 1, “The Social Problem,” pg 13-45</p> <p><i>Primary:</i></p> <p>Tuesday: Rifa Raif al-Tahtawi, “Fatherland and Patriotism 9-12; Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan, “India and English Government” and “Islam: The Religion of Reason and Nature,” pg. 32-37</p> <p>Thursday: Khayr al-Din al-Tunisi, “The Surest Path,” pg. 40-49</p>
7	Mar. 8-10	<p>Islam and in the Age of European Imperialism II</p> <p><i>Secondary:</i></p> <p>Albert Hourani, Chapter 5, “Jamal al-Din al-Afghani,” pg. 103-129 <i>Pioneers of Islamic Revival</i>, Chapter 2: “Sayyid Jamal al-Din al-Afghani,” pg. 11-29</p> <p><i>Primary:</i></p> <p>Tuesday: In class activities</p> <p>Thursday: Sayyid Jamal al-Din al-Afghani, “An Islamic Response to Imperialism” and “Islamic Solidarity,” pg. 13-19</p>

Week	Date	Readings, Assignments, In-class Activities
8	Mar. 15-17	<p>Islamic Reform</p> <p><i>Secondary:</i></p> <p>Albert Hourani, Chapter 6, “Muhammad ‘Abduh” pg. 130-160 <i>Pioneers of Islamic Revival</i>, Chapter 3: “Muhammad ‘Abduh,” pg. 30-63</p> <p><i>Primary:</i></p> <p>Tuesday: Muhammad ‘Abduh, “Laws Should Change in Accordance with the Conditions of Nations and the Theology of Unity,” pg. 50-60</p> <p>Thursday: Amir Shakib Arslan, “Our Decline and Its Causes,” pg. 44-48</p>
9	Mar. 22- 24	<p>Sufism and Politics</p> <p><i>Secondary:</i></p> <p>Martin van Bruinessen, “Sufism, ‘Popular’ Islam and the Encounter with Modernity,” pg. 129-157</p> <p><i>Primary:</i></p> <p>Tuesday: ‘Abd al-Qadir al-Jaza’iri, “Reminding the Intelligent, Notifying the Unmindful,” pg. 133-137</p> <p>Thursday: Muhammad Shukri al-Alusi, “Refutation of Nabhani,” pg. 158-171</p>
10	Mar. 29- 31	<p>Spring Break</p> <p>* Research Paper Topic and Question April 4 11:59pm *</p>
11	April. 5- 7	<p>Islam, Women and Gender</p> <p><i>Secondary:</i></p> <p>Leila Ahmed, Chapters 8-9, pg. 144-188</p> <p><i>Primary:</i></p> <p>Tuesday: Qasim Amin, “The Emancipation of Woman and the New Woman” pg. 61-69</p>

Week	Date	Readings, Assignments, In-class Activities
		Thursday: Bahithat al-Badiya, "Lecture in the Club of the Umma Party" pg. 70-76
12	April 12-14	<p>Islamic Activism</p> <p><i>Secondary:</i></p> <p><i>Pioneers of Islamic Revival</i>, Chapter 6: "Hasan al-Banna," pg. 124-153 Carrie Rosefsky Wickam, Chapter 2: "The Brotherhood's Early Years," pg. 20-45</p> <p><i>Primary:</i></p> <p>Tuesday: Hasan al-Banna: "The New Renaissance" pg. 59-63</p> <p>Thursday: Hasan al-Banna: "Toward the Light," pg. 49-78</p>
13	April. 19-21	<p>Islamic Politics: Vision and Worldview</p> <p><i>Secondary:</i></p> <p><i>Pioneers of Islamic Revival</i>, Chapter 3: "Mawdudi and the Jama'at-i Islami: the Origins, Theory and Practice of Islamic Revivalism," pg. 98-124; and Chapter 9: "Ali Shariati: Teacher Preacher, Rebel," pg. 208-250</p> <p><i>Primary:</i></p> <p>Tuesday: Sayyid Abu'l-A'la Mawdudi, "The Islamic Law," pg. 79-106</p> <p>Thursday: Ali Shariati, "On Martyrdom (shahadat)" pg. 361-365; and "The Philosophy of History: The Story of Cain and Abel," pg. 362-364</p> <p>* Research Paper Thesis Draft and Annotated Bibliography due by April 25 11:59pm *</p>
14	April. 26-28	<p>Islam, Capitalism, and Ideology</p> <p><i>Secondary:</i></p> <p><i>Pioneers of Islamic Revival</i>, "Chapter 7: Sayyid Qutb" pg. 125-183 Charles Tripp, Chapter 2: "Islamic Social Critics," pg. 46-76</p> <p><i>Primary:</i></p> <p>Tuesday: Sayyid Qutb: "Social Justice in Islam," pg. 103-108</p>

Week	Date	Readings, Assignments, In-class Activities
		<p>Thursday: Sayyid Qutb: “Sign Posts Along the Road and In the Shade of the Qur'an,” pg. 129-154</p>
15	May 3-5	<p>Islamic Authority and State I</p> <p><i>Secondary:</i></p> <p><i>Pioneers of Islamic Revival</i>, Chapter 4: “Khomeini’s Search for Perfection,” pg. 64-97</p> <p><i>Primary:</i></p> <p>Tuesday: Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, “Islamic Government,” pg. 155-180</p> <p>Thursday: Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr, “The General Framework for the Islamic Economy,” pg. 186-206</p>
16	May 10-12	<p>Islamic Authority and State II</p> <p><i>Secondary:</i></p> <p>Muhammad Qasim Zaman, Chapter 8: “The Ulama and Contestations on Religious Authority,” pg. 206-236</p> <p><i>Primary:</i></p> <p>Tuesday: Hasan al-Turabi, “The Islamic State,” pg. 207-223</p> <p>Thursday: Yusuf al-Qaradawi, “Islam and Democracy,” pg. 224-248</p>
17	May 17	<p>Islamic Feminisms</p> <p><i>Secondary:</i></p> <p>Amina Wadud, “Islamic Feminisms” pg. 1-6 Leila Ahmed, Chapter 10, pg. 189-207</p> <p><i>Primary:</i></p> <p>Tuesday: Zaynab al-Ghazali, “An Islamist Activist” and “From Days of My Life, chapter 2” pg. 275-301</p>

Week	Date	Readings, Assignments, In-class Activities
		Thursday: Nadia Yassine, "Modernity, Muslim Women, and Politics in the Mediterranean" pg. 302-320
	May 20	* Research Paper due by 11:59 pm *