



Lahore University of Management Sciences

POL 430 – Religion & World Politics

Fall 2009

Instructor: Dr. Ejaz Akram
Office: 239-F Old HSS Wing
Office hours: TBA
E-mail: ejaz@lums.edu.pk

Course Description:

This course analyzes the issues that emerge in the interface of political and religious arena of five major and living religious traditions of the world. It analyzes the political issues of two eastern and three western religions. From the eastern religious traditions, it deals with Hinduism and Buddhism, and from the western traditions, it includes the three Abrahamic religions, i.e., Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

The course deals with universal units of analysis which are common to human politics and normative political theory. Such units of analysis include the questions of sovereignty, political legitimacy, law, war, diplomacy, and international relations of different religious traditions. This course examines the latter in the light of the cardinal principles of above mentioned religions as well as the *political experience* of various religious communities. Finally, the dual transformation of religion and politics of the above religions due to forces of modernity will be discussed. In this context also discussed will be the rise of religious fundamentalism in the modern world and its causes.

This course does presuppose familiarity with basic concepts of political philosophy, however, it does not expect the students to have a thorough knowledge of world religions. The latter is expected to develop as a result of background readings prescribed for this course. After having taken this course the students are expected to know the basic principles of world religions and their relationship with their respective politics, political relationship among major religious traditions, and causes of religious fundamentalism.

Requirements & Deadlines:

Final grades will be assigned according to your performance on the following areas:

1)	Research Project	30%
2)	Final Exam	30%
3)	Midterm Exam	30%
4)	Attendance & Participation	10%

Attendance and Class Participation: It is expected that students attend regularly and participate actively in class. I will take attendance during the first five minutes of the class. If you came late, you will be marked absent.

Incompletes: No incomplete grade or make up examinations will be granted.

Cell Phones: No Cell Phones in Class. All phones must be switched OFF and inside your bags or pockets. They must NOT be visible.

Note on Academic Quality: *In addition to the above issue, my main priority is to promote academic quality and make sure that students who come out of my classes meet the highest educational standards. This is a shared responsibility of the professor and the students. My part is to come to class prepared, update my lectures, be involved, address your questions, and be available during office hours. Your part is to come to class on time, do the readings in advance, raise questions and participate effectively in class discussions, turn in your assignments on time, and be involved. Let us all work together to fight mediocrity (According to Oxford Dictionary, a mediocre person is: indifferent, ordinary, common place, average, medium, third-rate, inferior, poor).*

OUTLINE

Session 1: Introduction

Nature of Politics/ Nature of Religion

Session 2:

- *Religion* Religion in the Modern World Lord Northbourne
- *Religion and Religions* Religion and the Order of Nature S. H. Nasr
- *The Past in the Light of the Present.* Ancient Beliefs and Modern Superstitions Martin Lings

Session 3:

- *The Point of Departure (Introduction)* Religions of Man Huston Smith
- *Religion and Diversity of Normative Orders* Political Dimensions of Religion (ed. Arjomand) Said Amir Arjomand

Session 4:

- *Definition and Mutual Recognition of Religion and Politics* (Introduction) Political Dimensions of Religion (ed. Arjomand) Said Amir Arjomand
- *The Idea of God* Religion in the Modern World Lord Northbourne
- *Form and Substance in Religions.* Islam and the Perennial Philosophy. Frithjof Schuon
- *The Revolution in Western Thought.* Beyond the Post-Modern Mind. Huston Smith

Religious Traditions in the Modern World—Philosophical Foundations for the Study of Religion and Politics

Session 5:

- *Contemporary Western Man between the Rim and the Axis. Islam and the Plight of Modern Man. S.H. Nasr*
- *States and Parties, Apoliteia. Ride the Tiger: A Survival Manual for the Aristocrats of the Soul. Julius Evola*

Session 6:

- *The Modern World and Traditional Man. Ride the Tiger: A Survival Manual for the Aristocrats of the Soul. Julius Evola*
- *Religion and Tradition In Quest of the Sacred, the Modern World in the Light of Tradition. Victor Danner*
- *Tradition and Anti-Tradition Religion in the Modern World Lord Northbourne*

Session 7:

- *The World of Today in the Light of Tradition. In Quest of the Sacred, the Modern World in the Light of Tradition. Martin Lings*
- *Modernism Religion in the Modern World Lord Northbourne*

Hinduism and Politics

Session 8:

- *Indian History Sourcebook: Kautilya: Excerpts from The Arthashastra, c. 250 BCE*
- *Kautilya: The Arthashastra (4th Century BCE)*

Session 9:

- *'The Indian Machiavelli' or Political Theory in India Two Thousand Years Ago Herbert H. Gowen Political Science Quarterly Volume 44, Issue 2 (Jun., 1929)*
- *Hindu Revivalism and Education in North Central India Fundamentalism Observed Krishna Kumar*

Session 10: (Politics of Arya Samaj and Neo-Hindu fascism)

- *India Defence Looks to Ancient Text Sheikh Azizur Rahman BBC News Tuesday, 14 May, 2002*

Optional Background Reading:

- *Hinduism Historical Atlas of the World Religions Venkatarama Raghavan*

- *Hinduism* Religions of Man Huston Smith

Buddhism & Politics

Session 11: *(No readings for this session)*

- Essentials Buddhist Doctrines
- Fundamentals of Buddhist Political Philosophy

Session 12:

- Statelessness: The Case For A Buddhist Anarchism
- *Buddhism and Contemporary Politics*
- *Book Review of Gustaaf Houtman's Mental Culture in Burmese Crisis Politics By Karen Davis*

Session 13:

- *Selflessness: Toward a Buddhist Vision of Social Justice* By Sungtaek Cho
- *Buddhist Political Thinking* by Sita Arunthavanathan
- *Buddhism and Politics in Sri Lanka*

Optional Background Reading:

- *Mahayana Buddhism (Japan)* Historical Atlas of the World Religions Joseph M. Kitagawa
- *Mahayana Buddhism (China)* Historical Atlas of the World Religions C. Weihsun Fu
- *Theravada Buddhism* Historical Atlas of the World Religions G. P. Malalasekera
- *Buddhism* Religions of Man Huston Smith

Judaism & Political Tradition

Session 14:

Elements of Jewish Religion

- *Judaism* Historical Atlas of the World Religions Jacob Agus
- *Judaism* Religions of Man Huston Smith

Session 15: *(No readings for this session)*

Jewish Political Philosophy

Session 16:

- *Introduction to Maimonides' Political Thought* Maimonides' Political Thought : Studies in Ethics, Law, and the Human Ideal Howard Kreisel

Session 17: *(No readings for this session)*

- Politics of Judaism in Modern Israel and its relationship with Global Judaism. (Guest lecture)

Christianity & Politics

Session 18:

(Essential elements of Christianity)

- *Christianity* Religions of Man Huston Smith
- *Christianity* Historical Atlas of the World Religions Gerard Sloyan

Session 19:

- *Augustine and Early Christianity.* Political Philosophy: A History of the Search for Order. James L. Wiser

Session 20:

- *Thomas Aquinas and Medieval Christianity* Philosophy: A History of the Search for Order. James L. Wiser
- *The Protestant Reformation.* Political Philosophy: A History of the Search for Order. James L. Wiser

Session 21:

- *The Wrath of God in Black and White.* Hellfire Nation, the Politics of Sin in American History. James Morone
- *Church, State, Nation, and Civil Society in Spain and Poland* Political Dimensions of Religion (ed. Arjomand) Jose Casanova

Session 22:

(Politics in Contemporary Christian Societies)

- *Lost Primeval Bliss as Re-evolutionary Expectation: Millennialism of Crisis in Peru and the Phillipines* Political Dimensions of Religion (ed. Arjomand) Manuel Sarkisyanz
- *Note on the Shinning Path and Modernized Millennialism in Peru* Political Dimensions of Religion (ed. Arjomand) Javier Diaz-Albertini
- *An American Paradox: The Place of Religion in an Ambiguous Polity* Political Dimensions of Religion (ed. Arjomand) Steven M. Tipton
- *The Christian Right and Middle East* *Politics* *Grace Halsel*
- *The Christian Right and Domestic* *Politics* *Grace Halsel*

Judeo-Christianity & World Politics

Session 23:

- *The Battle of Armageddon* Prophecy and Politics: Militant Evangelists on the Road to Nuclear War Grace Halsell
- *The End is Near* Prophecy and Politics: Militant Evangelists on the Road to Nuclear War Grace Halsell
- *Provoking a Holy War* Prophecy and Politics: Militant Evangelists on the Road to Nuclear War Grace Halsell
- *Prophecy and Politics: A Marriage of Convenience: Why Israel Sought the Alliance With the New Christian Right* Militant Evangelists on the Road to Nuclear War Grace Halsell

Session 24:

- *What Israel Gains From the Alliance: Money* Prophecy and Politics: Militant Evangelists on the Road to Nuclear War Grace Halsell
- *What Israel Gains From the Alliance: More Land* Prophecy and Politics: Militant Evangelists on the Road to Nuclear War Grace Halsell
- *JerUSAlem: Mixing Religion and Politics* Prophecy and Politics: Militant Evangelists on the Road to Nuclear War Grace Halsell
- *The Three Tiered Problem* Islam and the Problem of Israel Ismail Raji al-Faruqi

Islam & Politics

Session 25:

- *Islam in the Islamic World Today.* Islam and the Plight of Modern Man. S.H. Nasr
- *The Harmony of Contemplation and Action in Islam.* Islam and the Plight of Modern Man. S. H. Nasr
- *Religion and Secularism, Their Meaning and Manifestation in Islamic History.* Islamic Life and Thought. S.H. Nasr

Session 26:

- *The Western World and its Challenges.* Islam and the Plight of Modern Man. S. H. Nasr
- *The Challenge of our Time.* Unveiling Islam. Roger Du Pasquier
- *Contemporary Islam: Religion and Politics.* Islam, the Straight Path. John Esposito

Recommended But Optional:

- *Islam* Religions of Man Huston Smith
- *Islam* Historical Atlas of the World Religions R. Ismail al Faruqi

Islam & World Politics

Session 27:

- *Millennial Beliefs, Hierocratic Authority, and Revolution in Shi'ite Iran* Political Dimensions of Religion (ed. Arjomand) Said Amir Arjomand
- *Islam and Europe*. Islam and the Destiny of Man by Gai Eaton.

Session 28:

- *Islam and the Encounter of Religions*. Living Sufism. S.H. Nasr & Katherine O'Brien
- *Religion and Constitutionalism in Western History and in Modern Iran and Pakistan* Political Dimensions of Religion (ed. Arjomand) Said Amir Arjomand

Modernity, Globalization and the Rise of Fundamentalism—I

Session 29:

- *Freedom and Equality*. Ancient Beliefs and Modern Superstitions. Martin Lings
- *The Political Extreme* The Eleventh Hour Martin Lings
- *The Meeting of Extremes*. Ancient Beliefs and Modern Superstitions. Martin Lings
- *The Poverty of Fanaticism* Islam, Fundamentalism and Betrayal of Tradition T.J. Winter

Recommended But Optional:

- *Religion and Civilizational Dimension of Politics* Political Dimensions of Religion (ed. Arjomand) S. N. Eisenstadt
- *Fundamentalism and the Political Mobilization of Women* Political Dimensions of Religion (ed. Arjomand) Martin Reisebrodt

Modernity, Globalization and the Rise of Fundamentalism—II

Session 30:

- *Fundamentalism and the World of 1990s (Epilogue)* Fundamentalism Observed William H. McNeill
- *Introduction*. The Reign of Quantity and the Signs of the Times. Rene Guenon
- *Uniformity against Unity*. The Reign of Quantity and the Signs of the Times. Rene Guenon
- *Islam, the Contemporary Islamic World, and the Environment Crisis*. Islam and Ecology, A Bestowed Trust. S. H. Nasr
- *Globalization and Muslim World* Islam, Fundamentalism and Betrayal of Tradition Ejaz Akram