

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

Division of Humanities

Department of Politics and International Relations

POL 369 Semester 2, 2007

EUROPE AND ISLAM

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OBJECTIVES:

The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to the complex interactions of European and Islamic civilization from the time of the Prophet right up until the present day. With the end of the Cold War, some observers claimed that Islam and, more particularly "Islamic radicalism", is the new "enemy" of Western Civilization. The September 11 attacks on the US, the turmoil in Iraq and the on going "war against terror" have added new weight to the claim. This course will examine the origins and substance of this claim by drawing not only on the history and politics of the encounter between Islam and Europe, but on the literature, art and film as well.

The first part of the course (weeks 1-5) will be broadly historical and provide background to the topics, which will follow, while the second part (weeks 6-13) will focus on cultural aspects of the encounter and on contemporary flash points between Islam and the West. As a whole this course aims to encourage students to understand the rich interaction and the levels of overlap that exist between the cultures in question and the nature of the shared histories that exist between the amorphous west and the equally nebulous Islamic cultures.

The other principal aim of this course will be to highlight the history of representation and misrepresentation that has occurred between the West and Islam and to discuss the impact such misunderstanding has on the political and international relations between Islamic and non-Islamic entities.

Lectures and Seminars:

Lecture: Wed 3 E7B 164

Seminars: 2 hrs a week

There will be no evening lecture for this course this semester. Students unable to attend the day lecture are advised that the e-lecture has been enabled for this course. Seminars will still be available for evening students.

ASSESSMENT AND WRITTEN WORK:

- Class participation and presentation- weekly participation in the seminars and the ability to demonstrate that the lecture material and readings were consulted and an attempt to engage with the work will contribute to ten percent of the overall assessment. Students are expected to attend all classes and discussions, and attendance records will be kept at the seminars. However, attendance alone, without participation, will not be sufficient for a grade in this component. In class assessment will also be comprised of an individual oral class presentation on a specific topic to be assigned in the first seminar (total 20%- 10% for participation and another 10% for the in-class presentation)
- Six 500 word journal presentations- to be chosen from any of the weeks from week 3 onwards and to be handed in at the relevant seminar. You may choose any of the questions allocated for that week's discussion as the basis for your answer (total 30%- 5% for each journal).
- An essay of approximately 3,000 words due on Friday, 26th October, (50%)
Essay questions will be made available in the seminar in week 2 and also posted on WebCT.

READINGS:

This course has a set text, which is: Emran Qureshi and Michael A. Sells (eds), *The New Crusades: Constructing the Muslim Enemy*, Columbia University Press, 2003. There will also be a Course Reader containing additional material. Both of these items are available from the bookshop. Further specialized readings may be assigned throughout the course, but the following books can be considered as additional texts and should be available in the Library and the bookshop:

- Richard W. Bulliet, *The Case for Islamo-Christian Civilization*, Columbia University Press, 2004. ISBN0231127960
- A.L. Macfie, *Orientalism*, Longman, 2002. ISBN0582423864
- Zachary Lockman, *Contending Visions of the Middle East*, Cambridge University Press, 2004. ISBN0521629373
- Karen Armstrong, *Holy War: the Crusades and their Impact on Today's World*, Anchor Books, 2001. ISBN0385721404
- Martin Kramer, *Ivory Towers on Sand*, Washington Institute for Near East Policy, 2002. ISBN0944029493
- Antony Loewenstein, *My Israel Question*, Melbourne University Press, 2006. ISBN9780522852684
- Bernard Lewis, *What Went Wrong? Western Impact and Middle Eastern Response*, Phoenix Press, 2002. ISBN075381675X
- Peter Manning, *Dog Whistle Politics and Journalism Reporting Arabic and Muslim People in Sydney Newspapers*, UTS, Centre for Independent Journalism, 2004. ISBN0958675457

Students should also be prepared to use the Internet to find relevant source material and should also familiarize themselves with the periodical literature on the Middle East. Journals such as *The Middle East Journal*, *Journal of Palestine Studies*, *Middle East Report*, and *Current History* should be consulted along with quality periodicals like *The Jerusalem Report*, *Middle East International*, and *The Guardian Weekly*. As the second part of the course will be concerned with contemporary events, it would also be useful to become a regular listener to a good international news service such as SBS or the BBC and to follow the international sections of the press.

*Note wikipedia and other similar sites will not be accepted as a source in either your journal submissions or your final essay.

Plagiarism Policy: Plagiarism will not be tolerated and is taken to be a very serious matter. The policy is that **NO** marks will be allocated to any work that is deemed to constitute plagiarism.

WEEK ONE: *beginning 31st July*

Introduction: An overview of the course, the Cold War and the concept of the "other". Samuel Huntington's *Clash of Civilizations and the War on Terrorism*. Arrangement of discussions and assignment of class presentations. Acquaint yourselves with the Middle East shelves of the Library.

Compulsory:

- Emran Qureshi and Michael A. Sells (eds), *The New Crusades: Constructing the Muslim Enemy*, pages 1-29
- Samuel P. Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*, pages 209-218
- Bernhard Lewis, *The Roots of Muslim Rage*, *Atlantic Monthly*, September 1990.

Recommended:

- Sari J. Nasir, *The Arabs and the English*, pages 1-17
- Susannah Tarbush, *The Arab Image in the West*, pages 8-31
- Jochen Hippler and Andrea Lueg (eds), *The Next Threat: Western Perceptions of Islam*, pages 1-31
- Rana Kabbani, *Europe's Myths of Orient*, pages 1-13

Discussion points:

- a. How has the "world system" changed since the end of the Cold War, the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the war in Iraq?
- b. Should the primary focus of this course be about "Europe" or about "Islam" or about "the West"?
- c. In what areas does Islam represent a "threat" to Europe, and how realistic is that threat?
- d. What, according to Bernhard Lewis, are the "Roots of Muslim Rage"?
- e. Has the West sacrificed tolerance and understanding in the wake of 9/11?

WEEK TWO: *beginning 7th August*

The Early Middle Ages (622-1094): The nature of Islam, Muslim expansion and the mediaeval threat to Europe. Muslim Spain and what Europe gained from Islam.

Compulsory:

- Richard W. Bulliet, *The Case for Islamo-Christian Civilization*, pages 1-45
- Abdulaziz Sachedina, "What is Islam?" *The World and I*, September 1997, pp: 178-183
- John L. Esposito, "Islam: FAQs", in *Saudi Aramco World*, September/October 2003

Recommended:

- Albert Hourani, *A History of the Arab Peoples*, pages 22-37
- Hichem Djait, *Europe and Islam: Cultures and Modernity*, pages 9-20; and 114-142
- Norman Daniel, *The Arabs and Mediaeval Europe*, pages 1-45; 80-105

- Maxime Rodinson, "The Western Image and Western Studies of Islam", in Joseph Schacht and C.E. Bosworth (eds), *The Legacy of Islam*, pages 9-62

Discussion points:

- a. How does the civilization of Islam differ from that of Judeo-Christianity?
- b. Why did Islam spread so rapidly?
- c. What factors enabled Muslim civilization to flower so brilliantly in Spain?
- d. In what ways can mediaeval Islam be seen as responsible for the shape of Western civilization today?
- e. Can the strength of a civilization be measured by its tolerance?

WEEK THREE: *beginning 14th August*

European Fightback (1095-1453): The Crusades and the *Reconquista* of Spain. What was the significance of the Fall of Constantinople in 1453?

Compulsory:

- Edward W Said, "The Clash of Definitions" in Emran Qureshi and Michael A. Sells (eds), *The New Crusades: Constructing the Muslim Enemy*, pages 68-87.
- Asaf Hussein, *Western Conflict with Islam*, pages 1-15
- Karen Armstrong, "The Curse of the Infidel", in *Guardian Weekly*, 27 June-3 July 2002.

Recommended:

- Andrew Wheatcroft, *The Ottomans: Dissolving Images*, pages 1-22
- Norman Daniel, *The Arabs and Mediaeval Europe*, pages 111-139; 230-262
- Thierry Hentsch, *Imagining the Middle East*, pages 23-48
- Joshua Prawer, *The World of the Crusaders*, pages 28-50
- Karen Armstrong, *Holy War: the Crusades and their Impact on Today's World*

Discussion points:

- a. Should the Crusades be seen simply as an early example of European imperialism?
- b. What factors led to Islamic "decline"?
- c. How relevant is the rise of anti-Semitism to relations between Islam and Europe, and what is the relationship of anti-Semitism to the Crusading Movement?
- d. What was the significance for Europe of the fall of Constantinople?
- e. What is Edward W Said saying in his "Clash of Definitions" article?

WEEK FOUR: *beginning 21st August*

The Ottoman Empire (1299-1922): the Enlightenment and the rise of European Exploration and Imperialism.

Compulsory:

- Tomaz Mastnak, "Europe and the Muslims: The Permanent Crusade?" in Emran Qureshi and Michael A. Sells (eds.), *The New Crusades: Constructing the Muslim Enemy*, pages 205-248 .
- John J. Saunders (ed) *The Muslim World on the Eve of Europe's Expansion*, pages 9-30
- Asaf Hussein, *Western Conflict with Islam*, pages 16-23

Recommended:

- Edmund Burke III, "Theorizing the History of Colonialism and Nationalism in the Arab Maghrib", in *Arab Studies Quarterly*, volume 20, number 2 (Spring 1998)
- Bernard Lewis, *What Went Wrong*, pages 3-20

Discussion points:

- a. How did Europe respond to the Turkish threat, and what factors led to Ottoman decline?
- b. Were imperialism and exploration essential ingredient to the development of Europe?
- c. How did the Christianity and Judaism respond to the enlightenment?
- d. "Knowledge is Power". How does this statement help us to understand Muslim/Christian relations?
- e. How did Islam respond to European scientific, military, technological and economic advances?

WEEK FIVE: *beginning 28th August*

Orientalism: The concept of Orientalism, and Muslims as the "other". How significant is the contribution of post-modernism?

Compulsory:

- John Truphdour, "The Clash of Civilizations: Samuel P. Huntington, Bernhard Lewis, and the Remaking of the Post-Cold War World Order" in Emran Qureshi and Michael A. Sells (eds), *The New Crusades: Constructing the Muslim Enemy*, pages 88-130 .
- Stuart Schaar, "Orientalism at the Service of Imperialism", in *Race and Class*, vol XXI no 1 (1979), pages 67-79
- Basim Musallam, "Review Essay: Power and Knowledge", in *MERIP Reports*, No. 79, pages 19-26
- Zachary Lockman, *Contending Visions of the Middle East*, pages 182-214

Recommended:

- Edward Said, *Orientalism*, pages 1-27; 201-226

- Martin Kramer, *Ivory Towers on Sand*
- A.L. Macfie, *Orientalism*
- Edmund Burke III, "Orientalism and World History: Representing Middle Eastern Nationalism and Islamism in the Twentieth Century", in *Theory and Society*, (1998)
- Rana Kabbani, *Europe's Myths of Orient*, pages 14-36

Discussion points:

- a. Can we say that it is a structural necessity for cultures to have "enemies"?
- b. How valid is Edward Said's criticism of the West, and of Western scholarship, in *Orientalism*?
- c. How can we categorize the attitude(s) of Islam, and of Islamic peoples, to the West?
- d. In what ways do the theories of post-modernism aid our understanding of other cultures?
- e. Do the history wars reflect a neo-conservative assault on our traditional understanding of the "other" and how is this reflected in our understanding of the Middle East?

WEEK SIX: *beginning 4th September*

Literature: The Changing Role of Islam in European Literature. Is Islam a distant enemy, or part of the canon?

Compulsory:

- Maria Rosa Menocal, "The Myth of Westernness in Medieval Literary Historiography", in Qureshi and Sells, *The New Crusades*, pp 249-287
- John V. Tolan, *Saracens*, (2002), pages xiii-xxiii, and 275-283.

Recommended:

- Katherine Slater Gittes. 'The *Canterbury Tales* and the Arabic Frame Tradition.' *PMLA* 98 (1983), 237-51.
- C. Meredith Jones. 'The Conventional Saracen of the Songs of Geste.' *Speculum* 17 (1942), 201-25.
- Bernard Lewis. *The Muslim Discovery of Europe* (1982), pp. 239-77
- John Stanley Martin. 'Attitudes to Islam from the chansons de geste to the riddarasogur.' *Parergon* 8 (1990), 81-95.
- Maria Rosa Menocal. *The Arabic Role in Medieval Literary History* (1987), pp. 70-113
- R. W. Southern. *Western Views of Islam in the Middle Ages* (1978). (A short book; most of it is useful.)

Discussion points:

- a. What contribution did Islam make to the literary and cultural life of Europe in the Middle Ages?
- b. What views of Islam do we find presented in western literature in the Middle Ages?
- c. How is the Prophet depicted in western literature of the Middle Ages and why is he so important to the European view of Islam?

- d. Is it possible to reconcile the great cultural contribution that Islam made to European life in the Middle Ages with the hostile attitudes towards Muslims in western medieval literature?
- e. To what extent can it be argued that medieval attitudes have shaped the modern world?

WEEK SEVEN: *beginning 11th September*

Islam in the imagination of Europe: Fantasy and children's literature, the arts (painting, music etc), and film.

Compulsory:

- Jack G. Shaheen, *Arab and Muslim Stereotyping in American Popular Culture*, pp. 1-28
- Susannah Tarbush, *The Arab Image in the West: Conversazione at Oxford*, 7-9 June 1998, pp: 8-22

Recommended:

- Lawrence Michalak, *Cruel and Unusual: Negative Images of Arabs in American Popular Culture*, ADC Washington, 1983
- Asaf Hussein, *Western Conflict with Islam*, pages 42-65
- Melani McAlister, *Epic Encounters: Culture, Media and US Interests in the Middle East, 1944-2000*
- Sari J. Nasir, *The Arabs and the English*, pages 38-89
- Rana Kabbani, *Europe's Myths of Orient*, pages 37-66
- John Sweetman, *The Oriental Obsession*, pages 1-10; 242-258
- Noam Chomsky, *Pirates and Emperors*, pages 15-43

Discussion points:

- a. To what extent is Orientalist Art a projection of European fantasy, sexual or otherwise?
- b. How important are the *Arabian Nights* in formulating modern Europe's attitude to Islam?
- c. Why were/are Europeans so fascinated by the desert?
- d. How impartially are Islam and the Arabs depicted in Western films today?
- e. In what ways are Arabs trying to shake off the negative stereotypes held of them by Western society?

WEEK EIGHT: *beginning 2nd October*

Islam and the Western Media: September 11th and the War on Terrorism. The end of the Cold War, Rogue States and the Clash of Civilisations

Compulsory:

- Mujeeb R Khan, "The Islamic and Western Worlds: 'End of History' or the 'Clash of Civilisations'?" in Qureshi and Sells, *The New Crusades*, pp 170-201
- Antony Loewenstein, *My Israel Question*, pages 187-209

Recommended:

- Ian S. Lustick, "The Absence of Middle Eastern Great Powers: Political 'Backwardness' in Historical Perspective", in *International Organization*, 1998, pages 653-679
- Gilles Kepel, *The Revenge of God*, pages 1-12.
- Peter Manning, *Dog Whistle Politics and Journalism: Reporting Arabic and Muslim People in Sydney Newspapers*, *passim*
- Robert van de Weyer, *Islam and the West*, *passim*
- Guy Arnold, *The Maverick State: Gaddafi and the New World Order*, pages 133-159
- John L. Esposito, *The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality*, pages 168-212

Discussion points:

- a. Were the attacks on September 11th an act of war, or a crime?
- b. Is militant Islam a new or an old phenomenon, and what is its motivation?
- c. What are the requirements of a "rogue state"?
- d. Why, and in what ways, is Islam presented negatively in the news media today?
- e. How realistic is the Islamist critique of Western society?

WEEK NINE: *beginning 9th October*

Flashpoints/case studies 1: The Iraq war and occupation, Oil in the Persian Gulf, Democratisation and the reshaping of the Middle East

Compulsory:

- Robert Fisk, "The case against war: A conflict driven by the self-interest of America" in *The Independent*, 15 February 2003.
- Robert Fisk, "the New, Free Iraq", in *The Independent*, 4 July 2004.
- Doug Stokes, "US Imperial Policing", *Z-Net*, 18 May 2004.
- Gilbert Achcar, "The Greater Middle East: the US Plan", *Le Monde diplomatique*, April 2004.

Recommended:

- Alan R. Taylor, *The Superpowers and the Middle East*, pages 1-21
- Douglas Kellner, *The Persian Gulf TV War*, pages 56-80
- Hamid Mowlana, George Gerbner and Herbert I. Schiller (eds), *Triumph of the Image: The Media's War in the Persian Gulf*, pages 3-63

- Daniel Yergin, *The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money and Power*, pages 745-781

Discussion points:

- Why is the Gulf region so important to the West?
- How dangerous *was* Saddam Hussein?
- What is the motivation behind the Iraqi resistance?
- In what ways is the neo-conservative agenda of "regime change" a break with the past in US foreign policy?
- How realistic are US plans to re-shape and democratize the Middle East?

WEEK TEN: *beginning 16th October*

Flashpoints/case studies 2: Israel, the Palestinians and the 2006 Lebanon/Gaza crisis

Compulsory:

- Edward W. Said, *The Question of Palestine*, pages 3-45
- Walid Khalidi, *Islam, the West and Jerusalem*, pages 3-24
- Amira Hass, "Monitoring Power", *Z-Net*, 30 June 2004

Recommended:

- Karen Armstrong, *Holy War: the Crusades and their Impact on Today's World*, Anchor Books, 2001
- Alan Dershowitz, *The Case for Israel*, John Wiley and Sons, 2004
- Edward W. Said, *The End of the Peace Process*, Vintage Books, 2002.
- Norman Finkelstein, *The Holocaust Industry*, pages 3-38
- Avi Shlaim, *War and Peace in the Middle East*, pages 37-60 and 104-132

Discussion points:

- How does the Israel/Palestine question affect relations between Islam and the West, and what is the significance of Jerusalem?
- Is there a parallel here with the world of the Crusaders?
- What has been the effect of the Holocaust on the West's attitudes toward Israel, and its problems with the Palestinians?
- The Arabs accuse Israel of being an "imperialist outpost". To what is this accusation justified?
- What effect has the 2006 Lebanon/Gaza crisis had on relations between Islam and the West, and how would a multinational force "control" Hizbullah?

WEEK ELEVEN: *beginning 23rd October*

Flashpoints/case studies 3: Immigration, Multiculturalism and Islam in the West.

Compulsory:

- Neil MacMaster, "Islamophobia in France and the 'Algerian Problem'", in Qureshi and Sells, *The New Crusades*, pages: 288-313
- Gilles Kepel, *Allah in the West*, pages 9-14

Recommended:

- Michael A. Sells, "Christ Killer, Kremlin, Contagion" in Qureshi and Sells, *The New Crusades*, pages: 352-388
- Joan Gross, David McMurray and Ted Swedenburg, "Arab Noise and Ramadan Nights: Rai, Rap and Franco-Maghrebi Identities", Smadarlavie and Ted Swedenburg (eds), *Displacement, Diaspora and Geographies of Identity*, pages 119-156
- Stanley Hoffman, "Why don't they like us?" *The American Prospect*, 19 November 2001, pages 183-187

Discussion points:

- a. Is immigration a response to imperialism, globalisation, or both?
- b. What is the future for Islam in Europe and the West in general?
- c. Is the popular reaction *against* immigration and multiculturalism based on class, race, religion or culture?
- d. Are we all becoming less tolerant?
- e. Who is Tariq Ramadan and what are the prospects of so-called "Euro-Islam"?

WEEK TWELVE: *beginning 30th October*

Flashpoints/case studies 4: The United States, the Nation of Islam and the Muslim world in general.

Compulsory:

- Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad, *The Muslims of America*, pages 53-61
- Daniel Pipes, "Louis Farrakhan is Not a Muslim", *Washington Post*, 2 July 1984
- Arthur Magida, "Is Louis Farrakhan Going Mainstream?" www.beliefnet.com nd

Recommended:

- Malcolm X, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X, passim*
- Vibert L. White jr., *Inside the Nation of Islam*, (Gainesville, 2001, University of Florida Press)
- Martin Kramer, *Ivory Towers on Sand*, Washington Institute for Near East Policy
- Melani McAlister, *Epic Encounters: Culture, Media and US Interests in the Middle East, 1944-2000*
- Augustus Richard Norton, "The Bridgeable Gulf: America and the Muslim World", in *Current History*, (February 1999)

Discussion points:

- a. How can the rise of the Nation of Islam in the US be explained, and are its members true Muslims?
- b. Is the US the new "imperial power" in the Middle East or a beacon for freedom and development?
- c. Why does an erosion of freedom seem to be occurring in today's America, and what could reverse this trend?
- d. Is the rise of evangelical Christianity in the US poisoning relations with the Muslim world?
- e. To what extent is a new McCarthyism affecting the study of Islam and the Middle East in American Universities?

WEEK THIRTEEN: . . . beginning 6th November

Conclusion: The New World Order and Islam: the New Enemy?

Compulsory:

- Roy P Mottahedeh, "The Clash of Civilisations: An Islamicist's Critique" in Qureshi and Sells, *The New Crusades*, pages: 131-151
- Samuel P. Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*, pages 246-265
- Zachary Lockman, *Contending Visions of the Middle East*, pages 215-267

Recommended:

- Said K. Aburish, *A Brutal Friendship: The West and the Arab Elite*, pages 13-35
- David C. Gordon, *Images of the West*, pages 159-162
- HRH The Prince of Wales, "Islam and the West" (Oxford, 1993).

Discussion points:

- a. How can Huntington's argument be refuted?
- b. What are the current challenges to globalisation?
- c. Is democratisation compatible with Islamic fundamentalism?
- d. Why are relations between Europe and Islam deteriorating as we enter the 21st Century, and can this trend be reversed?