

**American University of Beirut**  
**PSPA 215 (Islamic Political Thought, II)**

1. Student Learning Outcomes

PSPA 215 is a survey course that focuses on major political and ideological issues in the modern world of Islam and deals analytically with the major doctrines and trends that have been developed during the 19th and 20th centuries. The course starts with the discussion of the ideological and political doctrines of Islamic reformers like Jamal al-Din al-Afghani and Muhammad ‘Abdu, then moves to discuss the rise of Islamic movements and their ideologies. Issues like modernity, science, Islamic government, Islamic state, religion, revolution, nationalism, and relations with the West, are to be discussed. We do this through a thorough and careful reading and discussion of the discourses of major Islamic modernist and fundamentalist thinkers and ideologues.

Because of the incidents of September 11, 2001 that resulted in the attacks on WTC-Pentagon, we will include some extra material and devote some time to discussing the incidents, actors, and ideologies as well as US foreign policy toward Islamic movements and states.

2. Resources Available to Student

- 1) M. A. Badawi, *The Reformers of Egypt* (London: Croom Helm, 1978)
- 2) R. H. Dekmejian, *Islam in Revolution* (Syracuse University Press, 1985).

Three files of the reading material are available at the Jafet Library.

3. Grading Criteria

Grades are distributed in the following way:

- 1) Class discussion and presentation of one of your papers: 20 %
- 2) Two papers, one on leaders or thinkers, and another on movements or groups.

Each paper counts for 20 %

- 3) Final exam 40 %.

Therefore, it is very important that you attend and read the assigned readings before coming to class, since discussion in classroom ought to be based on what you have read and discussed.

#### 4. Schedule

In addition, the following weekly assignments should be adhered to:

Week I:

Dekmejian, "Islamic Revival: Catalysts, Categories and Consequences" in *The Politics of Islamic Revivalism*, ed. Shireen Hunter (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1988), pp. 3-19

Week II:

Badawi, "Jamal al-Din al-Afghani"

Charles Butterworth, "Political Islam: The Origins," in *ANNALS, AAPSS*, 534, Nov. 1992, pp. 26-37

Week III:

Badawi, "Muhammad Abduh"

Sivan, Ch. 2 "Barbarity and Nationalism," pp. 16-49

Week IV:

Badawi, "Muhammad Rashid Rida"

Moussalli, "Two Tendencies in Modern Islamic Political Thought: Modernism and Fundamentalism," *Hamdard Islamicus*, XVI: 2 (1993), pp. 51-78

Week V:

Dekmejian, "Islami Resurgence"

Moussalli, "The Views of Islamic Fundamentalism on Epistemology and Political Philosophy," *Islamic Quarterly*, XXXVII (1993), pp. 175-189

Week VI:

Dekmejian, "The Social-Psychological bases of Islamic Fundamentalism"

Moussalli, "Hasan al-Banna's Discourse on the Islamic state, Democracy and Shura," *Journal of Islamic Studies*, 4:2 (1993), pp. 161-174

Week VII:

Dekmejian, "Islamist Ideology and Practice"

Moussalli, "Sayyid Qutb: The Ideologist of Islamic Fundamentalism," *Al-Abhath*, XXXVII (1990), pp. 42-73

Week VIII:

Moussalli, "Hasan al-Turabi's Islamist Discourse on Democracy and Shura," *Middle Eastern Studies*, 30:1 (1994), pp. 52-63

Week IX:

Dekmejian, "Saudi Arabia"

Moussalli, "Modern Islamic Fundamentalist Discourses on Civil Society, Pluralism and Democracy" in *Civil Society in the Middle East*, ed. Augustus R. Norton (Leiden: Brill, 1994)

Week X:

Henry Munson, "Islamic Sacred History in Popular Religion and Fundamentalist Ideology: The Shi'i Offshoot," in *Islam and Revolution in the Middle East* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1988), pp. 16-38

Week XI

Dekmejian, "Syria"

As'ad Abukhalil, "Ideology and Practice of Hizballah in Lebanon," *Middle Eastern Journal*, 27:3 (1992), pp. 390-403

Week XII:

Dekmejian, "Consequences and Prospects"

Abbas Kelidar, "Europe and Islam," *Middle Eastern Studies*, 30:2 (1994), pp. 385-414

Weeks XIII & XIV:

Paper presentations