



ISLAM, POLITICS AND IDENTITY: FRANCE, THE MAGHREB & WEST AFRICA

APA Program: Multi-Country: France, Morocco, Senegal

Language of instruction: French

US semester credits: 4.0

Contact hours: 36 hours (12 hours per host city)

Term: Fall Semester | Spring Semester

Instructors: Paris - Dr. Dorra Mameri Chaambi, Society, Religions, Secularism Group (GSRL) research laboratory of CNRS and École Pratique des Hautes Études (EPHE)
Rabat - Dr. Salsabil Fakkar, Hassan II University
Dakar - Dr. Djim Dramé, Islamic Institute of Dakar

Course Description

This course investigates the complex relationship between Islam and politics in the contemporary period. As one of the world's major religions, Islam exerts significant global influence on the political stage both in the Muslim world and in Europe, where a sizable Muslim community lives. Yet, what Islam means to populations in various locations and the place it holds in defining identity and politics differs significantly. In this course, we will look at Islam from an ideological and identity point of view – not from a theological perspective – and seek to understand how the concept of Islam is deployed in politics in various contemporary contexts. The class is designed to understand the political dynamics of the Islamic revival by focusing on Islamic political movements in North Africa. What are their intellectual origins? How should we understand their relationship to colonialism, nationalism, democracy, liberalism, development, and women and gender?

The course starts by looking at Islam in France, where debates around the Muslim minority are strongly impacted by France's colonial past, notions of Laïcité (secularism) and concern with the rise of Islamic terrorism. The second part of the course examines the relationship between modern politics and Islam in Morocco, and looks at the rise of Islamist parties in Morocco beginning in the 1990s. Finally, the third part of the course focuses on expressions of political Islam in Senegal while stressing the importance of Sufi and syncretic religious practice.

Learning Objective

- Obtain knowledge about the dynamics that shape global Islamic movements and deepen students' understanding of the diversity and complexity of Islamic movements in international contexts
- Gain an understanding of the complex relationship between modernity, religion and secularism
- Learn to think critically about the relationship between the Muslim world and the West as well as between various Muslim societies
- Engage in comparative analysis

Schedule

Paris - Muslim Minorities and Identity Politics in France

Week 1 - Introduction to Islam

- Emergence and spread of Islam, 5 pillars of the faith, and essential concepts
- Overview of the relationship between religion and politics in Islam

Week 2 - Islam, Islamism and the West

- Islam as anti-imperialism
- Race, Islam and cultural diversity in France - the 2005 Banlieue protests

Week 3 - Islam, Laïcité, and the French Republic

- Relationship between state, religion and the public sphere in France: can Islam be French?
- Laïcité and the headscarf debate

Week 4 - Islam and Radicalization in France

- French Salafism and jihadism
- French debates on Islam after Charlie Hebdo and November 13 terrorist attacks

Rabat - Islam, Politics and Secularization in Morocco

Week 5 - Islam and the Colonial Encounter

- Definitions, conceptions and theories

Week 6 - "Moroccan Islam" and the Monarchy

- Discourses and practices of religious legitimization

Week 7 - Islamic Parties and Political Participation

- The limits of reforms and democracy

Week 8 - The Moroccan "Arab Spring" and the Religious Processes

- The issue of secularization in Morocco

Dakar - Islamic Movements in Senegal

Week 9 - Colonial Policies Towards Islam and Arab-Islamic Learning

- Relationship between colonial authorities and the *Marabout* religious leaders in Senegal

Week 10 - Relationship Between Islamic Brotherhoods and Politicians Since the 1960 Independence

- Religious and political figures in contemporary Senegal

Week 11 - Emergence of Islamic Associations, Movements, and Politics

- Primary Islamic associations and movements in Senegal
- Relationship associations, Islamic movements, and power in Senegal

Week 12 - Emergence of Islamist Parties

- Islamist parties enter the National Assembly
- The Senegalese State's policy towards Arab speakers and its consequences

Assessment

Each host city professor will assign a grade based on the following components of a student's work. The final grade will be an average of the three grades.

1. Participation - 30%

- Pop quizzes, classroom contribution, attendance

2. Written assignments - 30%

- These assignments, three pages in length, will answer a prompt posed by each professor such as a topic or subject covered in class or a commentary on a text or image.

3. Oral presentation - 10%

- An analysis or report of a course text

4. Final exam - 30%

Bibliography

Paris

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