

Title of the Course:

## **Islam, State and Democracy in West Asia**

Optional Course

For

M.A. (International Relations-West Asian Studies)

Course No: MWAS-

Semester- **II**

Centre for West Asian Studies  
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

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### **Course Description**

Despite every effort to marginalize the religion from the political and public domain in the wake of modernization and secularisation over the last two hundred years, it has continued to stir the imagination of its adherents. In the contemporary era, Islam or what is being variously described by many observers and scholars as ‘political Islam’ or Islamism’ has emerged as the symbol of hope and aspirations by vast majority of Muslim across the globe and paradoxically as a matter of grave concern and challenge by many. In the last few decades, Islam and Islamic oriented parties have gained significant ground in the political sphere of many countries in the West Asian region in particular and the world in general. In the wake of the Arab uprising, Islam was expected to emerge as the dominant factor across the Arab world. Despite attempts to marginalize the growing role of Islam in politics by the secular establishment led by the military junta in the wake of the Arab uprising, the role of Islam continues to pose serious challenge. Thus the growing role of Islam in politics has become a dominant discourse in the academia. This course intends to familiarize the students about the nature of interplay between Islam and Politics as well as various factors for the rise and growth of the political Islam and consequently Islamic Movements. This course is mainly intended to develop a critical understanding and perspectives of the discourses available on the subject.

### **Course Content**

### **Unit I: Theoretical Framework and Perspectives**

- Islam and Politics: A Conceptual Framework
- Concepts and Terms: *Shura*, *Tauhidul Hakmiyah*, *Bay'a* (pledge), *Ijma*, *Vilayat e Faqih*
- Defining Democracy and Discourses on Compatibility Between Islam and democracy
- Defining Political Islam/Islamism
- Engagement with and impact of modernity and post-modernity on political Islam

### **Unit II: Islam, State, Politics and Democracy**

- Genesis and Evolution of Islamism
- Nature of Islamists engagement with states and political institutions
- Islamic Political thinkers: Jamaluddin Afghani to Khomeini
- Islam and Iranian Model of Democracy
- Monarchy and “Controlled” Democracy: Saudi Arabia (Majlis), Kuwait (Diwaniyah)

### **Unit III: Islamists and Electoral Politics**

- Muslim Brotherhood and Electoral politics in Egypt
- Al-Nahda in Tunisia
- Hamas in Palestine
- The AKP in Turkey
- FIS in Algeria

### **Unit IV: Islamists and the West in Global Perspective**

- Islam and Arab spring
- Islamism as a transnational phenomenon
- Responses to the Expansionist West: Intellectual and Militant Response
- Al-Qaeda and ISIS

### **Reading List**

- Ayubi, Nazih N. *Political Islam: Religion and Politics in the Arab world*. Routledge, 1991.
- -----, *the Many Faces of Political Islam: Religion and Politics in the Muslim World* (University of Michigan Press, 2009), Chapter 3

- Berkey, J., *The Formation of Islam: Religion and Society in the Near East, 600-1800*, Cambridge University Press, 2003
- Burgat, François. *Face to Face with Political Islam*. London: I.B. Tauris, 2003.
- Bayat, Asef. *Post-Islamism the Many Faces of Political Islam*, New York: Oxford University Press. 2013
- Esposito, John. *Political Islam: Revolution, Radicalism, or Reform*, Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1997
- Kepel, Gilles, *Jihad: The Trail of Political Islam*. Revised edition. I B Tauris, 2009.
- Mandaville, Peter. *Global Political Islam*. Routledge, 2007.
- Milton-Edwards, Beverley, *Islamic Fundamentalism since 1945*, 2 edition, Abingdon, Oxon; New York: Routledge, 2013
- Kepel, Gilles, *Jihad: The Trail of Political Islam*. Revised edition. I B Tauris, 2009.
- Mandaville, Peter. *Global Political Islam*. Routledge, 2007.
- Milton-Edwards, Beverley, *Islamic Fundamentalism since 1945*, 2 edition, Abingdon, Oxon; New York: Routledge, 2013

#### **Method of Instruction:**

Lectures and Tutorials will be held on a weekly basis. Questions, Discussion and debate during classes will be strongly encouraged. Students are expected to keep informed of the current events in the West Asian Region.

#### **Method of Assessment:**

A mid-term exam would consist of essay questions based upon the topics covered upto that point. It will be of 25 marks and student must answer two question out of 4 of 12.5 marks each. The final exam would be conducted according to a schedule at the end of the semester will be of 75 marks. In the final exam, student must answer 5 out of 10 questions.