

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THOUGHT IN WEST ASIA

Optional Course

for

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

Course No: MWAS-105

Semester I

Centre for West Asian Studies

Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

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Course Description

The entire West Asia is in transition. It has been earlier so but after Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic Revolution in Iran and Arab Uprising it has gone into a critical phase. Earlier as well as in recent past ideologies of power and resistance developed in entire West Asia, Hence, an analysis of intellectual dynamics in the recent past and present, especially, in West Asia needs thorough understanding. This course aims at providing the students an insight into the different facets of thought in West Asia as apart from Islam, which is the dominant one, there are other intellectual processes also.

Course Content:

Unit I: Political and Social Thought in Turkey

- Introduction to Political and Social Thought in Turkey
- Pan Islamism and its impact
- Atatürkism and Secularism

Unit II: Iran: Political Islam

- Ayatollah Khomeini and Islamic Revolution
- Islamism in Power
- Islamism in Politics

Unit III: Colonialism and Arab National Ideologies

- Arab Nationalism: Abd al-Rehman al Bazazz
- Nasserism: The Principles

- Ba'thism- its Origin, Growth and Features

Unit IV: Neo - Colonialism and the Ideologies of Resistance

- Genesis and Growth of Zionism
- Palestine Nationalism: PLO, ALFATAH
- Ikhwan (Muslim Brotherhood)
- Hamas: Islamic Resistance Movement

Reading List

- Adeed Dawisha, Arab Nationalism in the Twentieth Century: From Triumph to Despair, Princeton University Press, New Jersey, 2003.
- Ibrahim M. Abu-Rabi, Contemporary Arab Thoughts: Studies in Post 1967 Arab Intellectual history, Pluto Press, London, 2004.
- _____ Contemporary Islamic Thought, Blackwell Publishing Ltd, Hong Kong, 2006.
- Kemal H. Karpat, Political and Social Thought in the Contemporary Middle East, Praeger Publishers, New York, 1982.
- Shahid Jamal Ansari, Political Modernization in the Gulf, Northern Book Centre, New Delhi, 1998
- _____ Arab Political Thought in the Twentieth Century, Cosmos Books, New Delhi, 2007.
- Graham E. Fuller, The Future of Political Islam, Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 2003.
- Youssef M. Choueiri, Arab Nationalism: A History, Blackwell Publishers, Oxford, 2000.

Websites:

- www.irfi.com
- JSTOR
- suppress@syr.edu
- <http://readersblog.mercymega.net>

Method of Instruction:

Lectures and tutorial 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 up to that point. It will be of 25 marks and student must answer two questions out of 4 of 12.5 marks each. The final exam conducted according to a schedule at the end of the semester will be of 75 marks. In the final exam, students must answer 5 out of 10 questions.