International and Cultural Diversity (ICD)
Texas A&M University
International and Cultural Diversity Cover Sheet
Request for a course to be included in the University Graduation Requirement for International and Cultural Diversity

1. This request is submitted by (department name):  INTS ________________________________

2. Course prefix and number:  INTS 321  3. Texas Common Course Number:  

4. Complete course title:  POLITICAL ISLAM AND JIHAD  5. Semester credit hours:  3

6. Frequency the class will be offered:  1/year

7. Number of sections per semester:  1

8. Number of students per semester:  40

9. Historic annual enrollment for the last three years:  
   2012-2013:  new course
   2011-2012:  # Students enrolled
   2010-2011:  # Students enrolled

10. Statement on how this course meets the criteria for International and Cultural Diversity:
    This course is designed to understand the patterns and interaction between Islamic movements and politics in various Middle Eastern countries to develop an understanding of the role of Islam as a tool for political and social mobilisation. It will examine the politicization of Islam and its impact on movements and countries such as Turkey, Iran, Egypt, Sudan, Algeria, Tunisia and Pakistan. The main topics consist of the evolution of Islamist philosophy, jihad and movements from the late nineteenth century until the present day. It focuses on ideas as well as intellectual, religious and political leaders. At least two-thirds of the course material addresses Islamic movements and politics in the last five decades.

11. Course Instructor  
    for Sena Karazipahi

12. Department Head  
    Robert R. Smartley

13. College Dean/Designee

9/16/2014  
Date

9/23/2014  
Date

9/24/2014  
Date

Submit this form and current course syllabus to fso-ccc@tamu.edu or Kristin Harper, TAMU 1125.

See form instructions for submission/approval process.
INTS 321: Political Islam and Jihad  
(cross-listed with RELS 321 and HUMA 321)  
Dr. Sena Karasipahi  
Fall 2015

Class: TR 2:20-3:35  
Classroom: HRBB 104  
Office: ACAD 103  
Office Hours: TR 11:12:00  
E-mail: senokam@tamu.edu  
Phone: 845-2124 (INTS main office)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Interaction between Islamic movements and politics in various Middle Eastern countries; the meaning and evolution of jihad; the role of Islam as a tool for political and social mobilization.

This course is designed to understand the patterns and interaction between Islamic movements and politics in various Middle Eastern countries to develop an understanding of the role of Islam as a tool for political and social mobilisation. It will examine the politicization of Islam and its impact on movements and countries such as Turkey, Iran, Egypt, Sudan, Algeria, Tunisia and Pakistan. The main topics consist of the evolution of Islamist philosophy, jihad and movements from the late nineteenth century until the present day. It focuses on ideas as well as intellectual, religious and political leaders. The key areas covered are: the fundamentals of Sunni and Shi'a thought; modernist Islam - al-Afghani, Mohamed Abduh and Rashid Rida; Islamic Puritanism - the Wahhabis, the Sanussiya, and the Mahdiyya; Models of Islamic State - Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Malaysia and Sudan; Islamist Movements - Muslim Brotherhood, Hizb'allah, Hamas, the Islamic Salvation Front, transnational Islam and international jihadism - Jama'at Islamiyya and al-Qaeda; Islam and the West.

PREREQUISITES

Junior or Senior Classification, or approval of Instructor.

EXPECTATIONS

The students are expected to read all of the assigned material in order to have a necessary understanding of the subject matter. Lecture material and reading assignments are complementary and should not be considered substitutes for each other. Students are highly encouraged to ask any and all questions, join and participate in discussions that will be fostered in the classroom, and realize that this is an open forum for debate and discussion where the expression of all views and questions are highly encouraged. This is an open forum and this class should be viewed as a learning experience by all involved. This can be achieved only with full class participation as this contributes to the overall understanding of the subject by students. Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate their skills in social science.
**Learning Outcomes.** Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- recognize and articulate the essential characteristics of political Islam and culture and the worldviews of Islamic societies.
- analyze the historical evolution of Islamic activism and the concept of jihad since the eighteenth century.
- appraise the patterns and interaction between Islamic movements and politics in various Middle Eastern countries in a comparative way to develop an understanding of the role of Islam as a tool for political and social mobilisation.
- analyze the politics of the contemporary Middle East.

**ATTENDANCE**

Attendance in this class is mandatory! In light of the fact that my presentations will complement rather than reiterate the assigned readings, you will miss a great deal by not coming to class. We will take attendance at the beginning of each class.

You will be allowed two unexcused absences. For current University policy on excused absences and documentation see Rule #7 of the Student Rules at [http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07](http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07). If you miss more than two classes without a university-approved excuse (see University policy above on excused absences), your grade for the course will be lowered by one letter grade. For illness- or injury-related absences of fewer than three days, an Explanatory Statement of Absence (available at [http://attendance.tamu.edu](http://attendance.tamu.edu)) or a note from a health care professional confirming date and time of visit will be required in order to count the absence as University-excused; for absences of three days or more, a note containing a medical professional’s confirmation that absence from class was necessary will be required (see Rule 7.1.6.1 and 7.1.6.2). Make-up exams and assignments will be arranged in accordance with University Policy (see Student Rules 7.3).

**GRADING**

Participation in Class: 10%
Oral Presentation: 20%
Midterm: 30%
Final Exam: 40%

**Grading Scale:**
A: (90-100); B: (80-89); C: (70-79); D: (69-60); F: (59 and Below)

**Participation:** You are encouraged to read news sources, such as *The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Independent, The Christian Science Monitor, The Economist,* or the BBC on-line, and bring in current news items for discussion in the beginning of each class. This is an important component of your participation grade.

**Oral Presentation:** During the oral presentation, you are expected to present and discuss the readings of the day and use relevant handouts or presentation software (such as PowerPoint). After the presentation, students are expected to comment on the presentation and raise either theoretical or empirical questions regarding the information that has been presented. Student participation is required and expected immediately following these oral presentations.
Format for the Midterm and Final Exam: The mid-term and final exams will be in-class exams in which you have to answer two out of four questions in essay format.

Required Books
3. Additional assigned readings available through course reserves (library-reserves.tamu.edu).

Useful References and Resources
Blogs are an increasingly useful source of information and commentary on Middle East international politics. One of the best is www.juancole.com. Cole’s blog also has a good list of other blogs on the region.


Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information visit http://disability.tamu.edu.

Academic Integrity Statement
"An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do." You are expected to know the Aggie Honor Code and Honor Council Rules and Procedures: see aggiehonor.tamu.edu.

Plagiarism Statement
As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of the passing off as one’s own ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have the permission of that person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarism destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult the latest issue of the Texas A&M
University Student Rules, under the section “Scholastic Dishonesty”. As for now, these rules are also available at http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule20.htm

**Laptop Computers**
Laptop computers in the classroom are a mixed blessing. While they could be a great asset for note-taking, they also prove to be distracting to the individual using them and others (including the professor) when pop-up features, e-mail, web material, etc. draw attention away from the class. Thus while note-taking is necessary & is hence encouraged, students are asked not to use laptops except with instructor permission.

**No Cell Phones & No Text Messaging**
As with laptops, cell phones are to be turned off & put away during class. Students who need to check their phone message or who need to text message will have to leave the classroom or will be asked to do so.

**Tentative Lecture Plan and Readings**

**Week 1: An Overview of Islam**
a) Introduction to the class. Clarification of the course, including reading material, expectations, requirements.
b) General Characteristics of the Islamic Faith; John Esposito, “Ten Things Everyone Needs to Know about Islam.”
http://arabworld.nitle.org/texts.php?module_id=2&reading_id=62&sequence=1

**Video: Empire of Faith**

**Week 2: Islam, Religion, Politics, Society**

**Week 3: What is Muslim Politics?**

**Week 4: Islamic Responses to the West: Roots of Conflict, Cooperation and Confrontation**
Week 5: Islamic Groups and Politics (Part I)


Week 6: Islamic Groups and Politics (Part II)

b) Hakan Yavuz, “Opportunity Spaces, Identity, and Islamic Meaning in Turkey,” in *Islamic

Week 7: Islamic Radicalism and the Role of Muslim Militias:


- Midterm Exam

Week 8: Islamic Fundamentalists in Power and Changing Political Geography of Muslim Politics


Week 9: Sources of Political Islam


Week 10: Representations of Islam


**Week 11: Islam, Secularism, Democracy, Modernity and the West**


**Week 12: Islamic Jihad**


d) http://www.mei.edu/content/at/robert-ford-isis-offensive-iraq

**Week 13: Islam: Challenge or Threat?**


**Week 14: Islamophobia**


b) Summary, Review and Concluding Remarks
General Discussion of the Themes Covered.

**Final Examination:** Date/time in accordance with published schedule on the TAMU academic calendar.