Religion and Politics: Islam, Secularism, Global Movements
Lent 2021

Course organiser
Dr Iza Hussin (ih298@cam.ac.uk)

Time and Location: Tuesdays 9-11am, starting 26th January 2021.

Course Outline
This 7 week session will be organised around three major themes in the study of religion and politics: Islam and Politics, Secularism, Global Movements. With readings drawn from recent published work in the field, it applies comparative political analysis to key theoretical, historical, methodological, and policy issues in religion and politics research: How do modern states define, order, and reproduce religion? How does mobility, and mobilisation, matter for research and policy on religion and politics? Is Islam an exception in the study of religion and politics?

Teaching
Students are expected to participate actively in the seminar discussions, including taking leadership of at least one critical discussion of the readings.

NB: While this course engages some of the themes and readings introduced in Michaelmas term (Larsson), it serves as a stand alone session.

Sessions
Readings are subject to modification, please check online course guide for the definitive version.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26 January</td>
<td>Debating the secular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 February</td>
<td>Religion and the State I: Empire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 February</td>
<td>Religion and the State II: Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 February</td>
<td>Religion and Global Movements I: Capitalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 February</td>
<td>Religion and Global Movements II: Terror</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 March</td>
<td>Islamic States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 March</td>
<td>Debating religion and politics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment
Students are expected to write one 3,000-word essay that explores a question of relevance to the core themes and topics of the course. Questions will be set by the seminar leader and released in January, on a date to be confirmed by the MPhil Director. Please ensure that essays are appropriately formatted, citations are consistent, and bibliography attached; it is the student’s responsibility to familiarise themselves with the University’s guidelines on academic honesty and plagiarism. The essay is due on 19th March 2021. The essay is worth 100% of the final grade.

Readings
Essential readings will form the main basis for discussion in the seminars. Recommended readings are provided as a guide for students who wish to explore topics in further depth. The SPS/Seeley library will have most of the readings assigned for the seminars; others will be available at the UL and the library of the Centre of South Asian Studies, which is located in the Alison Richard Building. Many articles and book chapters can be accessed electronically through the University Library’s electronic resources.
Debating the secular

Essential
Chapters 1, 2, 8.
1-64, Conclusion.

Recommended
Talal Asad and Abdullahi an-Naim in conversation:  
Shakman-Hurd, E. 2004. ‘The Political Authority of Secularism in International Relations’, *European Journal of International Relations*, vol 10, no. 2
Religion and the State I: Empire

Essential

Recommended

Religion and the State II: Law

Essential

Recommended
Philosophy. Oxford U.P.
Loos, Tamara. 2008. “A History of Sex and the State in Southeast Asia: Class, Intimacy and
Invisibility.” Citizenship Studies 12, 1.
in Singapore’s Multi-Ethnic, Quasi-Secular State,” Hastings Constitutional Law
Quarterly, 197-220.
published in USA with Columbia UP)
Reasoning. Cambridge University Press.
Peletz, Michael G. 2002. Islamic Modern: Religious Courts and Cultural Politics in
Malaysia. Princeton University Press.

Religion and Global Movements I: Capitalism

Essential
Rudnyckyj, Daromir. 2010. Spiritual Economies: Islam, Globalization, and the Afterlife of
Development. Cornell University Press.
Stanford University Press.
Palgrave.

Recommended
Beng Huat, Chua. 2003. Life is Not Complete without Shopping. National University of
Singapore Press.
Rodan, Garry and Richard Robison. 2006. Political Economy of South-East Asia: Markets,
Power and Contestation. Oxford University Press.
Religion and Global Movements II: 'Terror'

Essential

Recommended
Hickman, M, Thomas, L, H. Nickels, S. Silvestri 2012. “Social Cohesion and the Notion of ‘Suspect Communities’”, Critical Terrorism Studies, 5: 1

Islamic States

Essential

Recommended

Debating religion and politics

Essential

Additional readings tba