

Shi'i Islam Theology & Political Thought

S. Sadegh Haghghat¹

Course Number: REL 4937 U04 Special Topics

Undergraduate

Spring 2017, Religious Department, FIU

Time: Tuesday, 9:30- 12:30

Course Description

This course *for the undergraduate* covers the sources, the fundamentals and a short history of Shi'i Islam as a mainstream. Special attention will be given to the different approaches in Shi'i thought, such as traditionalism, modernism and political Islam.

Prerequisites: None.

¹ . **Seyed Sadegh Haghghat** graduated in political thought from TM University in Tehran, and studied at the Islamic Seminaries between 1981 and 2004. His M.A. thesis on "*Transnational Responsibilities of the Islamic State*", and his Ph.D. dissertation on "*Distribution of Power in Shi'ite Political Thought*" are focused on Shi'ite jurisprudence. His research interests embrace Islamic political thought, methodology of political science, Iranian Revolution and political Islam. He has published 20 books, some of which have been translated into Arabic. In *Six Theories about the Islamic Revolution's Victory*, he has put forward a new theory about the Iranian Revolution. He has participated in several international academic conferences. His new book, *Methodology of Political Science*, deals with methodological and interdisciplinary issues. Currently he is a full professor at the Department of Political Science at Mofid University in Qom and a courtesy lecturer in FIU. His articles and most full texts of his books and articles could be accessed at: <http://www.s-haghghat.ir>

Course Objectives

Students who complete the course should have developed an understanding of the following issues in:

- 1) A history of Shi'ites & Sunni Islam
- 2) The Shi'i Islam sects: Zaydi, Ismaili & 12 Imami
- 3) Different approaches: Traditionalism, Modernism and Political Islam
- 4) General principles of Shi'i Islam
- 5) Main holy texts
- 6) Usulis & Akhbaris
- 7) New concepts in Islam: secularism, democracy and terrorism

- Week 1 (Jan, 10): Orientation

Introducing Sunni and Shi'i Islam

A Framework for the Course

Shias, Kharijites, Murjiites

Shi'i Islam: 1, 2, 3

Traditionalism, Modernism and Political Islam

Video: Approaching The Study Quran:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Myy2NQQkxY&t=105s>

- Week 2 (Jan, 17): An Introduction to Islam

Sayyed Muhammad Husayn Tabatabai, *Shi'ite Islam*, pp. 33-67.

Further Reading: 1- Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Al Khashif'i Ghitah, *The Origin of Shi'te Islam*. 2- Mohammad Baqir As Sadr, *The Emergence of Shi'ism and the Shi'ites*. 3- Hossein Nasr, *The heart of Islam*, pp. 55-112. Fred M. Donner,

Muhammad and the Caliphate, in: John L. Esposito, *The Oxford History of Islam*, pp. 1-61, Anthony Black, *The History of Islamic Political Thought*.

Video: Conversations w_Great Minds P1 - Dr. Nasr - The Difference between Shia _ Sunni:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Coi2phqP7y8>

- Week 3 (Jan, 24): The Sects of Shi'i Islam: Zaydi, Ismaili & 12 Imami

Tabatabai, *Shi'ite Islam*, pp. 68-77.

Further Reading: W. Montgomery Watt, *Islamic Philosophy and Theology*, pp. 122-131.

Videos: 1- Origins of Ismaili and Zaidi Sects of Shi'ism; Internal Obstructions to Faith - Dr. Husein Khimjee

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dc41ynv1y-E&t=194s>

2- Harvard Lecture - The Shia Ismaili Muslims by Khalil Andani

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2WfsNu-DAY>

- Week 4 (Jan, 31): Methodology, Ontology & Epistemology

1) Tabatabai, *Shi'ite Islam*, pp. 79-107.

2) Knowledge of God & the Prophet: Tabatabai, *Shi'ite Islam*, pp. 109-139.

Further Reading: 1- Hossein Nasr, *The heart of Islam*, pp. 1-54. 2- Ja'far Sobhani, *Doctrines of Shi'i Islam*, pp. 1-17.

Free Discussion: Islam & The Theory of Evolution

Video: Seyyed Hossein Nasr - at This is America - General Talk about Islam

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6QADxrJy3Q&t=421s>

- Week 5 (Feb, 10): Friday Prayers: Jafari Center.

Notes: 1- Attendance at the center is mandatory for all. 2- There is no class in this week. 3- A critical report of the center (in 2 or 3 pages) is needed for the week 6.

- Week 6 (Feb, 14): General Beliefs & Imamate

Tabatabai, *Shi'ite Islam*, pp. 150-191.

Further Reading: 1- Eschatology, Tabatabai, *Shi'ite Islam*, pp. 140-149. 2. Ja'far Sobhani, *Doctrines of Shi'i Islam*, pp. 18-140. 3- Sayyid Muhammad Rizvi, *Shi'ism: Imamate and Wilayat*, online. 4- S. Jafri, *The Origins and Early Development of Shi'a Islam*, Chapter 11.

Video: Islam, the Quran, and the Five Pillars All Without a Flamewar Crash Course World History 13

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpcbfxtDoI8&t=1s>

- Week 7 (Feb, 21): Messianism

Riffat Hassan, "Messianism & Islam".

Further Reading: Abdulaziz Abdulhussein Sachedina, *Islamic Messianism: The Idea of Mahdi in Twelver Shi'ism*, State University of New York, 1981.

Free Discussion: Messianism: A Comparative Study between Sunni Islam, Shi'i Islam, Christianity and Judaism

- Week 8 (Feb, 28): Political Verses of the Quran

File No 1.

Further Reading: Jane McAuliffe, *The Norton Anthology of World Religions: Islam*, pp. 86-130.

Video: Keynote address at New Approaches to Qur'an , Seyyed Hossein Nasr

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkodXRnouLc>

- Week 9 (Mar, 7): Nahjul Balaqa (Letter 53)

File No 2: Text & MP3

Mid- term Exam (closed- book): Remember, you have 30 minutes to complete the exam, once started. Please, plan accordingly.

- Week 10 (Mar, 14): Spring Holiday

- Week 11 (Mar, 21): Ijtihad: Usuli vs. Akhbari

Rob Gleave, *Scripturalist Islam*, Chap. 1.

Further Reading: 1- Zackery M. Heern, *Reform Movement in Early Modern Iraq and Iran*, A dissertation submitted to the faculty of, The University of Utah, 2011.
2- Saeid Edalatnejad, *Shi'ite Tradition, Rationalism and Modernity*, online.

- Week 12 (Mar, 28): Islamic Political Texts: Political Philosophy / Political Fiqh (Jurisprudence) / Mirrors for Princes

1) Jane McAuliffe, *The Norton Anthology of World Religions: Islam*, pp. 256-265.

2) S.S. Haghghat, "Persian Mirrors for Princes: Pre-Islamic and Islamic Mirrors Compared".

Further Reading: 1- Henry Corbin, *History of Islamic Philosophy*, pp. 319-364. 2- Gerhard Bowering, *Islamic Political Thought*, pp. 1-23.

- Week 13 (Apr, 4): Political Islam: Imam Khomeini & The Supervision of Faqih

Kenrick Abbott, *Contemporary Shi'ism as Political Ideology*, Chapter 4.

Further Reading: Jane McAuliffe, *Islam*, pp. 571-576.

- Week 14 (Apr, 11): Secularism & Democracy

Mahmoud Sadri & Ahmad Sadri (Translated and Edited), *Reason, Freedom & Democracy in Islam*, pp. 54-68 & pp. 122-130.

Further Reading: Paul Kubicek, *Political Islam and Democracy in the Muslim World*.

- Week 15 (Apr, 18): Jihad & Terrorism

S. Sadegh, Haghghat, "Jihad from a Shi'a Hermeneutic Perspective".

Further Reading: Hossein Nasr, *The heart of Islam*, pp. 237-272

Video: Conversations w_Great Minds P2 - Dr. Nasr - The Muslims among us

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ejaFEHu4XQ

- Week 16 (Apr, 25): Final Exam (open-book): 45 minutes.

Evaluation

Two exams, a presentation and a paper (each one 25% points). The topic of the presentation should be one of the above ones. The edited paper, which is according to "the standard style" and between 1500 and 2100 words, should be emailed to ss.haghghat@gmail.com by the end of Apr. The topic of the paper could be the same topic of the presentation.

Main Texts (excluding further readings):

- Abbott, Kenrick, *Contemporary Shi'ism as Political Ideology: the views of Sharî'atmadârî, Tâliqâni, and Khumaynî*, U.M.I, 1993.
- Gerhard Bowering, "Islamic Political Thought", Princeton University Press, 2015.
- Hassan, Riffat, "Messianism & Islam", *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, Vol. 22, No. 2 (Spring 1985).
- Gleave, Rob, *Scripturalist Islam*, Brill, 2007.
- Haghghat, S. Sadegh, "Jihad from a Shi'a Hermeneutic Perspective", in: Bas de Gaay Fortman (and others) (Editors), *Hermeneutics, Scriptural Politics, and Human Rights: Between Text and Context*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.
- ----- , "Persian Mirrors for Princes: Pre-Islamic and Islamic Mirrors Compared", in: Regula Forster & Neguin Yavari (ed), *Global Medieval: Mirrors for Princes Reconsidered*, US, Harvard University, 2015.
- McAuliffe, Jane, *The Norton Anthology of World Religions: Islam*, W. W. Norton & Company, 2015.
- Sadri, Mahmoud (& Sadri, Ahmad) (Translated and Edited), *Reason, Freedom & Democracy in Islam*, Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Sobhani, Ja'far, *Doctrines of Shi'i Islam*, (tr. and ed. Reza Shah Kazemi), London and New York: I. B. Tauris Publishers and the Institute of Isma'ili Studies, 2001.
- Tabatabai, Sayyed Muhammad Husayn, *Shi'ite Islam*, Translated and Edited by Seyyed Hossein Nasr, State University of New York Press, 1975.

Files:

- File No 1.
- File No 2: Text & MP3