

POLITICAL SCIENCE 389

TOPICS IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS:

THE MIDDLE EAST, DEMOCRACY, AND VIOLENCE

Fall 2007
T 2-4:30PM
BSB 1171

Professor Frank Tachau
Office: 1170-B BSB
Hours: T1-2PM
Phone: 312-413-3774; E-mail: ftachau@uic.edu

This seminar deals with one of the most controversial, dangerous, and emotion-laden subjects of present-day politics. We will adopt a strictly dispassionate analytical approach, avoiding politically charged vocabulary as much as possible. Our goal is to achieve a deeper understanding of this unsettling phenomenon. Fasten your seatbelts!

This seminar fulfills the Writing-in-the-Disciplines requirement of the LAS College. Emphasis will therefore be placed on written work and active participation in discussion.

We will utilize the following **required** books:

Matthew Levitt, *Hamas: Politics, Charity, and Terrorism in the Service of Jihad*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006..

Gilles Kepel, *Jihad: The Trail of Political Islam*, Harvard University Press, 2002.

Robert A. Pape, *Dying to Win: The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism*, Random House, 2005.

These books are available at the UIC Bookstore and in the Reserve Room of the UIC Library..

Other readings may be assigned or highlighted from time to time, including items found on the Internet. Be alert for these.

THIS IS A SEMINAR. This means that your participation is critical to the success of the course. You cannot participate effectively if you are not here, and if you do not carefully read each assignment prior to the class discussion of that assignment. Participation in class discussions will form part of the basis for grade evaluation at the end of the semester. It is therefore important: 1) that you give this class **top priority**; 2) that you **attend** regularly; and 3) that you actively **participate** in discussion (this means no dosing in class!). If you can't adhere to these standards, better drop the class now.

There may be a mid-term and there will be a final examination covering the major issues and their implications as presented in assigned readings and in the case studies, and as analyzed in class discussions.

FIRST WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT:

Because this is a Writing-in-the-Discipline course, you will have multiple opportunities to improve your writing skills. The first opportunity comes between the first and second class sessions. You are asked to write a 500 to 750 word essay explaining your understanding of either the phenomenon of democracy or terrorism. Please submit this essay **NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**. It should be typed double-spaced. Please submit the **original** (not a copy). Be sure to carefully proof-read and correct all errors before you turn it in.

NB: THE PROPER TIME AND PLACE TO SUBMIT ASSIGNMENTS IS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CLASS SESSION ON THE DUE DATE. NEVER shove an assignment under an office door! If you can't avoid being late, the next best place to leave it is in my mailbox in 1101 BSB.

... more

MAIN WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT:

You will be asked to undertake a study of some aspect of either democracy or terrorism, such as a study of a terrorist incident or a group identified with terrorism, or an event associated with democracy. This study will consist of three interrelated activities (deadlines are firm).

1. A two to five page **proposal** of the topic you wish to study. This proposal should briefly describe what you propose to investigate, and explain why it is appropriate for this course. This proposal should NOT take the form of a summary of the paper, or a mini-paper. It should describe WHAT you PLAN to do in the paper. The proposal should include a list of published sources which may serve as sources of information for your research. Please note the sources must be published. On-line materials may be acceptable but must be fully cited.

This proposal is due by September 18, 2007. You may be asked to revise this proposal before it can be approved.

2. After your proposal has been approved, you will write a ten to fifteen page paper analyzing the topic you have selected. This paper is due by November 13, 2007.

3. You will be asked to make a brief **oral report** to the class on your topic. The precise schedule for these presentations will be announced. It will be scheduled BEFORE the due date of the final written draft, so that you may take advantage of comments from classmates to make final revisions in the written version.

The relative weight of each of the activities in the course will be roughly as follows:

Initial written assignment . . .	5%
Midterm exam (if there is one) .	15%
Paper	35% / 40%
Oral report	10% / 10%
Final exam	25% / 35%
Class participation	10%

The schedule on the next page indicates the topics to be discussed and appropriate readings. YOU SHOULD NOT HESITATE, HOWEVER, TO READ SECTIONS OF THE ASSIGNED BOOKS AHEAD OF THIS SCHEDULE, particularly as you prepare for your paper and oral presentation. Changes are also likely to be made in this schedule, sometimes on short notice. It's up to you to keep track.

. . . more

TOPICS

READINGS

I. INTRODUCTION:

Islam; Terror; Democracy

Kepel, Introd, Chap. 1, pp. 1-42
Pape, Chaps. 1-2

II. ISLAM AND THE REST

History:

Origins of Islam

Islam vs. the West pre-1492

Islam and the West in Modern Times

Kepel, Chap. 2, pp. 43-60

III. ISLAM AND POLITICS AROUND THE WORLD:

Overview: Islam in the 1960s

Egypt

Malaysia

Pakistan

Iran

Lebanon

Saudi Arabia

Afghanistan

Palestinians

Algeria

Sudan

Other Arab countries

Bosnia

Turkey

Europe

Kepel, Chap. 3, pp. 61-80

Kepel, pp. 81-88; 276-98

Kepel, pp. 88-98

Kepel, pp. 98-105

Kepel, pp. 106-123, 130-135

Kepel, pp. 123-130

Kepel, pp. Pp. 130-135; 205-17

Kepel, pp. 136-150; 217-237

Kepel, pp. 150-158; 323-41

Levitt, pp to be announced

Kepel, pp. 159-176; 254-75

Kepel, pp. 176-184

Kepel, pp. 237-253

Kepel, 342-360

Kepel, pp. 185-204

IV. JIHADISM IN THE 1990s AND AFTER

Osama bin Laden

Kepel, Chap. 13, pp. 299-322

Suicide Terrorism:

Strategic Logic

Social Logic

Individual Logic

Pape, Part I, pp. 27-78

Pape, Part II, pp. 79-170

Pape, Part III, pp. 171-236

V. ISLAM AND DEMOCRACY: ARE THEY COMPATIBLE?

Reading to be announced

VI. CONCLUSIONS

Kepel, pp. 361-376

Pape, pp. 237-250