REL 6097
Muslim Concepts of War,
A Perspective for National Security

By examining scripture, tradition, history, and the works Muslim jurists, theologians, and activists, together with those of modern academic specialists, this course is intended to acquaint students with the history and development Muslim doctrines and concepts of war at a level which prepares them to make meaningful contributions to ongoing and future policy deliberations.

Course objectives:
Upon completing this course, students will be expected to
1) Understand and analyze key Arabic terms related to warfare
2) Understand the sources of Muslim law
3) Understand and analyze the view of warfare in the Qur'an and Hadith
4) Understand and analyze Muslim views of Muhammad as a warrior and statesman
5) Understand and analyze the general development of Muslim concepts of just and unjust war
6) Be familiar some of the most important jurists and theologians who have influenced Muslim concepts of war throughout history
7) Understand and analyze a range of contemporary Muslim perspectives on war
8) Make policy recommendations based on such analysis

Required Texts:
- A.J. Arberry, *The Koran Interpreted*
- Hugh Kennedy, *The Great Arab Conquests*
- John Kelsay, *Arguing the Just War in Islam*
- Roxanne L. Euben, *Enemy in the Mirror: Islamic Fundamentalism and the Limits of Modern Rationalism*

Recommended Texts
- Robert A. Pape, *Dying to Win: the Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism*
- Bruce Lawrence (editor) and James Howarth (trans.) *Messages to the World: The Statements of Osama bin Laden*

In addition to the above required texts, selected articles and excerpts of other works available through the library's online databases or electronic reserve will also be assigned.

Course Requirements:
Students will be graded on attendance and participation in class discussions, two significant quizzes, and a research paper, weighted as follows:

Attendance and Participation - 20%
Quiz 1 - 20%
Quiz 2 - 20%
Final Paper - 40%
**Students must enroll at turnitin.com.** All papers must be submitted through turnitin.com and will be checked for plagiarism using the latest available software. Work that is found to be plagiarized will receive a failing grade and the student may be subject to charges of academic misconduct.
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Syllabus

Week 1: Introduction to the course, key terminology, Muslim sources. Pre-Islamic Arabia and the advent of the Qur'an,

Week 2: Prof. Musa is out of town - NO LECTURE -. Library research

Week 3: The Qur'an's portrayal of struggle and fighting. NO LECTURE Wednesday.

Week 4: In Medina, Muhammad as warrior and statesman

Week 5: After Muhammad: consolidation, expansion, and the first civil war

Week 6: The Umayyad dynasty and the roots of Shi'ism - QUIZ

Week 7: The Abbasid revolution and the growth of empire, the importance of Hadith and development of classical theology and law

Week 8: The development of classical laws of war

Week 9: The influence of the crusades

Week 11: Ibn Taymiyya, his environment and influence

Week 12: WWI and the end of the Caliphate - QUIZ

Week 13: Sayyid Qutb and Abu al-'Ala al-Mawdudi

Week 14: Osama bin Laden and al-Qa'ida, Islam vs. the West

Week 13: Khalid Abou El Fadl, the distinction between jihad and hiraba; Tariq Ramadan, the emergence of Western Islam

Week 14: Suicide Terrorism

Week 15: Islam and war in the world media - FINAL PAPERS DUE