

AL-MAKTOUM INSTITUTE

COURSE DETAILS

Course Code	AM 5503
Course Title	Islam and Muslims and International Relations: contemporary issues and twenty-first century challenges
Course Co-ordinator	Dr Alhagi Manta Drammeh
Semester	Spring

COURSE CONTENT

This course will examine politics and international relations with particular reference to how Muslim international relations have developed both in the light of Islamic political and legal frameworks and also contemporary issues and challenges of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. It will look at the dialectics of ideal and application by exploring the concepts and ideals of justice, humanity and equality within Islamic sources in relation to particular case studies and theories of international relations. The course will also examine and critically evaluate relationships between Muslim and non-Muslim states and the political concepts of *shūra* (consultation), caliphate and *ḥakimiyyah/siyadah* (sovereignty) along with the *Madinah wathīqah* (document/agreement/constitution) and its application within contemporary political contexts. The course will also look into implications of 9/11 tragedy for respective foreign policy and international politics. The course will allow students to learn and critically review the different theories in politics and international relations from both Muslim and 'Western' perspectives.

COURSE AIMS

1. To examine contemporary issues in politics and International Relations with particular reference to Muslim nations and societies
2. To discuss these issues with reference to Islamic political and legal frameworks, in particular the Shari'ah principles of Islamic Jurisprudence (*uṣūl al-Fiqh*) and *siyāsah shar'iyyah* (political law) and methodology relevant to International Relations
3. To ground students in different theories of politics and international relations
4. To examine relationships within Muslim legacy (*turath*) for responding to global challenges on the basis of justice, mutual respect and humanity
5. To learn the key terminology and theoretical and methodological approaches within contemporary studies of International Relations (e.g. realism, idealism and structuralism) and to relate these to discussions of Muslim approaches to this field of study.
6. To examine the complexity of discussions of the concept and practice of democracy within contemporary Muslim contexts and within the broad framework of Islamic sources
7. To apply these issues to particular case studies of Muslim countries and societies.
8. To be able to make contemporary analysis of the role played by some Muslim international organisations (OIC) in international affairs.

MAIN LEARNING OUTCOMES

On Successful completion of the course students should be able to

1. Discuss the relationship between religion and politics in Islam and how this has been developed and understood in diverse ways through Muslim history
2. Demonstrate deep understanding and knowledge of basic Islamic concepts of International Relations
3. Understand some of the political terminology developed by *usuli* (principles of Jurisprudence) scholars and have an understanding of the complexity of terms such as *shura* (argument, covenant, consultation), the caliphate and *hakimiyah/siyadah* (sovereignty)
4. Show knowledge of contemporary theoretical and methodological approaches within International Relations

Assessment

100% coursework

- 10% seminar presentation
- 30% critical review – 2,000 words
- 60% essay – 3,500 to 4,000 words

Resit: Not normally applicable

Teaching Hours

Total Number of hours	200
Timetabled teaching hours	24
Private Study Time	176