

## *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

### *Syllabus*

## *Doctrines of Conflict: Salafi Texts from War Zones - 16445*

*Last update 20-08-2018*

*HU Credits:* 2

*Degree/Cycle:* 1st degree (Bachelor)

*Responsible Department:* Arabic Language & Literature

*Academic year:* 0

*Semester:* 2nd Semester

*Teaching Languages:* Hebrew

*Campus:* Mt. Scopus

*Course/Module Coordinator:* Dr. Daniel Lav

*Coordinator Email:* [daniel.lav@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:daniel.lav@mail.huji.ac.il)

*Coordinator Office Hours:*

---

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Daniel Lav

Course/Module description:

The last few decades have witnessed the emergence of a new phenomenon: armed uprisings led by salafī organizations against the ruling regimes in the Muslim world. What was/is the ideological profile of organizations such as the Fighting Vanguard (Syria, 1980s), the GIA (Algeria, 1990s), and al-Qā'ida and the Islamic State? What are the social, political, and military implications of this ideological profile? How do these organizations differentiate between friends and enemies, and on what grounds? In the course we will examine these topics through selected readings in salafī texts from various war zones.

Course/Module aims:

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

To characterize and analyze salafī texts in their historical contexts, to map conflict zones in terms of competing ideologies, to describe the worldview of the radical salafīs and to explain in what ways their patterns of behavior are conditioned by this worldview.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Instruction will focus on reading primary sources together in the classroom setting, with guidance from the instructor. Students will be expected to prepare the readings in advance of each class. The instructor's lectures will serve primarily to introduce new topics.

Course/Module Content:

Background: Salafism and al-salafiyya al-jihādiyya  
First stirrings: The Fighting Vanguard in Syria and the GIA in Algeria  
Afghanistan and the Arab volunteers  
Radical Salafism and the Arab Spring  
New Divisions: al-Qā'ida and the Islamic State

---

Required Reading:

‘Umar ‘Abd al-Ḥakīm (Abū Muṣ‘ab al-Sūrī), *al-Thawra al-islāmiyya al-jihādiyya fī sūriya*

Abū Qatāda al-Filasṭīnī, "Bayna manhajayn" (a serialized column in the GIA's *al-Anṣār* journal)

Abū Muḥammad al-Maqdisī and Abū Qatāda al-Filasṭīnī, *Ju‘nat al-muṭayyabīn ‘Uthmān b. ‘Abd al-Raḥmān al-Tamīmī, l’lām al-ānām bi-mīlād dawlat al-islām*

Alexander Thurston, "Algeria's GIA: The First Major Armed Group to Fully Subordinate Jihadism to Salafism," *Islamic Law and Society* 24, 2017.

Brynjar Lia, "'Destructive Doctrinarians': Abu Mus'ab al-Suri's Critique of the Salafis in the Jihadi Current" in Roel Meijer (ed.), *Global Salafism*, New York: Columbia, 2009.

Thomas Hegghammer, *Jihad in Saudi Arabia: Violence and Pan-Islamism since 1979*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010, pp. 99-112.

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 50 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 10 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 40 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information: