The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

The Wahhabi Movement from Its Origins to the Present Day - 16832

Last update 18-10-2020

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Arabic Language & Literature

Academic year: 0

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Daniel Lav

 Coordinator Email: daniel.lav@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:
  Dr. Daniel Lav

Course/Module description:
  The Wahhābī movement, from its origins in the mid-eighteenth century, upended the religious, social, and political spheres in the Arabian Peninsula, and subsequently exerted growing influence on the Muslim world in general. In this course we will trace developments in the Wahhābī movement from its origins as a militant reform movement up to its institutionalization in current-day Saudi Arabia.

Course/Module aims:
  The course aims to impart a profound and nuanced understanding of the Wahhābī movement throughout the course of its historical development and to prepare students for independent research in both doctrinal and historical topics.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
  Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to conduct independent research in Wahhābī doctrine and history on the basis of primary texts.

Attendance requirements(%):
  _100_

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The principal teaching method in the course will be class discussions based on primary and secondary sources, to be supplemented by lectures whose primary purpose will be to frame these discussions within their proper intellectual and historical contexts.

Course/Module Content:
  Course topics include (but are not necessarily limited to):
- Muḥammad b. ʿAbd al-Wahhāb and the origins of the Wahhābī movement: On the importance of monolatry and the war against the cult of saints
- The opponents of Wahhābism and the rudūd literature
- Patterns of Wahhābī expansion in the first Saudi state (1744-1818): Ibn Ghannām's Taʾrīkh Najd as a historical source
- The second Saudi state (1824-1891): Relations with the Ottomans and the doctrine of al-walāʾ waʾl-barāʾ
- Exporting the revolution: Wahhābī influence beyond the Arabian Peninsula (with

emphasis on the Indian subcontinent and the Levant)
- The third Saudi state: ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz b. Saʿūd, the ikhwān, and the tethering of the Wahhābī movement to the state project
- The Ibn Bāz era: Between Wahhābī legacy and modern salafism
- The Wahhābī legacy and al-salafiyya al-jihādiyya

Required Reading:
Examples of course readings:

Primary sources:
Various works of Muḥammad b. ʿAbd al-Wahhāb
Ibn Ghannām, Taʾrīkh Najd
Aḥmad b. Zaynī Daḥlān, al-Durar al-saniyya fīʾl-radd ʿalā al-Wahhābiyya
Maḥmūd Shukrī al-Ālūsī, Ghāyat al-amānī fīʾl-radd ʿalā al-Nabhānī
Muḥammad b. Ibrāhīm, Taḥkīm al-qawānīn
ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz b. Bāz, Majmūʿ fatāwā wa-maqālāt mutanawwiʿa

Secondary sources:
Michael Cook, "On the Origins of Wahhābism," Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, Third Series, 2:2, pp. 191-202
Samer Traboulsi, "An Early Refutation of Muḥammad ibn 'Abd al-Wahhāb's Reformist Views," Die Welt des Islams, New Series, 42:3 (2002), pp. 373-415
David Commins, "Why Unayza? Ulema Dissidents and Noncomformists in the Second Saudi State"
M.J. Crawford, "Civil War, Foreign Intervention, and the Question of Political Legitimacy: A Nineteenth Century Saudi Qadi's Dilemma," International Journal of Middle East Studies 14 (1982), pp. 227-248
Abdulaziz H. Al-Fahad, "From Exclusivism to Accommodation: Doctrinal and Legal Evolution of Wahhabism," New York University Law Review 79:2 (2004), pp. 485-519

Nabil Mouline, The Clerics of Islam: Religious Authority and Political Power in Saudi Arabia, Yale University Press, 2014
Stéphane Lacroix, Awakening Islam: The Politics of Religious Dissent in Contemporary Saudi Arabia, Harvard University Press, 2011

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 70 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 10 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 20 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: