

Spring 2-1-2004

## RELS 395.02: Crusade and Jihad - Comparative Christian and Islamic Political Thought

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### Recommended Citation

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**Crusade and Jihad:  
Comparative Christian and Islamic  
Political Thought**

LS 395.02/RELS 395.01  
Spring, 2004  
TTh 9:40-11:00  
LA 138  
3 credits

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Office: LA 101A  
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Hours: MWF 11-12  
& by appointment

A survey of medieval and modern Christian and Islamic theopolitical traditions. We will attend to: the legacy of classical antiquity and the role of canonical scriptures; politics and law, order, virtue, glory, freedom, justice and happiness; the sources, location and jurisdiction of power, sovereignty, and political authority; the separation of powers sacred and secular; interpretations of covenant, shari'a, kingship, the caliphate, theocracy, utopianism, democracy, empire, secular nationalism, modernism, and revolutionary fundamentalism. We will consider religious responses to politics: theocratic, quietistic, prophetic, apocalyptic and sapiential.

Early in the course we will also address the justification, authority and conduct of *jihad* and the crusades; we will look at religious sanctions of violence and warfare within and between polities, the fateful intersection of religion, politics, violence and identity formation. In the second half of the course we will also investigate the contemporary "clash of civilizations" thesis.

**Course Syllabus**

1/27,29 Introduction. The legacy of classical antiquity and the authority of sacred texts

J.Canning, *A History of Medieval Political Thought (HMPT)*, chapters 1-2

2/3,5 The Christian theopolitical tradition: kingship, theocracy, separation of powers, church and state, conciliarism

Canning, *HMPT*, chapters 3-4

2/10,12 The Islamic theopolitical tradition: the prophet and the law, monarchy and tradition, community and the caliphate

A. Black, *The History of Islamic Political Thought From the Prophet to the Present (HIPT)*, Parts I and II

2/17,19 The shari'a and the sword, the sultanate, statecraft and morality, empire, colonialism, modernism and fundamentalism

Black, *HIPT*, Parts III – V

2/24, 26 War and peace: from pacifism to just war to holy war

- J.T.Johnson, *The Holy War Idea in Western and Islamic Traditions (HWI)*, chapters 1-3
- 3/2,4 *Jihad* and crusade: justification, authority, and conduct  
Johnson, *HWI*, chapters 4-6
- 3/9,11 The crusades: historiography, causes, conduct, and consequences  
J.Riley-Smith, ed., *The Oxford History of the Crusades (OHC)*, chapters 1-8  
(selections)
- 3/16 The crusades through Arab eyes: colonialism and the legacy, revival and survival  
of the crusading movement  
Riley-Smith, *OHC*, chapters 9-15 (selections)
- 3/18 Midterm exam
- 3/23,25 A world of civilizations: religion and cultural identity, modernization,  
westernization and “la revanche de Dieu”  
S.P.Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order  
(CC)*, Parts I and II
- 3/29-4/2 Spring break
- 4/6,8 Islamic resurgence and the politics of identity  
Huntington, *CC*, Part III
- 4/13-15 Western and Islamic universalisms and the global politics of civilizations  
Huntington, *CC*, Parts IV and V
- 4/20-22 The clash of civilizations? The islamicist critique  
E.Qureshi and M.Sells, eds., *The New Crusades: Constructing the Muslim Enemy (NC)*,  
Intro. & Part I
- 4/27,29 The permanent crusade? Islamophobia vs. the global desecularization  
/resacralization of politics  
Qureshi and Sells, *NC*, Part II
- 5/4-6 Conclusion. Retrospect and prospect
- 5/11 Final exam (8-10)

### Required Reading

Anthony Black, *The History of Islamic Political Thought From the Prophet to the Present*

Joseph Canning, *A History of Medieval Political Thought*

Samuel P. Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*

James Turner Johnson, *The Holy War Idea in Western and Islamic Traditions*  
Emran Qureshi & Michael Sells, eds., *The New Crusades: Constructing the Muslim  
Enemy*  
Jonathan Riley-Smith, ed., *The Oxford History of the Crusades*

### **Course Requirements**

1. Attendance and participation are crucial. (10% of grade.) Three absences (or persistent tardiness) will lower your grade one letter grade. Six absences will result in failure of the course.
2. Completion of assigned reading in a timely fashion is also a necessity. Occasional quizzes may be needed to encourage you in this regard. (10 % of grade.)
3. There will be a midterm exam on Thursday, March 18 and a final exam on Tuesday, May 11, 10-12. (40% each)
4. A term paper or research paper (on an approved topic) may be submitted in lieu of a final exam. Due at end of the term. (40%) Evidence of plagiarism will result in failure of the course.

For those who elect the P/NP option, the equivalent of a “C” is necessary for a “Pass”.