

CONTEMPORARY ARAB POLITICAL THOUGHT

for

M.A: CBCS COURSE

Semester I

Centre for West Asian Studies

Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

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Course Description

The entire West Asia is in transition. It has been earlier so but after the Arab Uprising it has gone into a critical phase. Hence, an analysis of intellectual dynamics in the recent past and present especially in the Arab world needs thorough understanding. This course aim at providing the students an insight into the different facets of thoughts in the Arab World as apart from Islam, which is the dominant one, there are other intellectual processes also.

Unit I: Arab Nationalism

- Bases of Arabism
- The Debate over Pan-Arabism
- Causes for Diversity

Unit II: Regional and Local Nationalism

- Shu'ubiyya
- Syrian Nationalism
- Phalangist

Unit III: Arab Socialism and Secularism

- Arab Socialism
- Secularism
- Perception about Islam

Unit IV: Islam

- All Comprehensiveness
- Political Modernization
- Recent Trends

Reading List

- Adeed Dawisha, Arab Nationalism in the Twentieth Century from Triumph to Despair, Princeton University Press, New Jersey, 2003.
- Ibrahim M. Abu-Rabi, Contemporary Arab Thoughts: Studies in Post – 1967 Arab Intellectual History, Pluto Press, London, 2004.
- _____, Contemporary Islamic Thought, Blackwell Publishing Ltd, Hong Kong, 2006.
- Kemal H. Karpat, Political and Social Thought in the Contemporary Middle-East, Praeger Publishers, New York, 1982.
- Shahid Jamal Ansari, Political Modernization in the Gulf, Northern Book Centre, New Delhi, 1998.
- _____, Arab Political Thought in the Twentieth Century, Cosmos Books, New Delhi, 2007.

Websites:

- www.irfi.org
- suppress@syr.edu
- <http://readersblog.mercymega.net>

Method of Instruction:

Lectures and tutorial will be held on a weekly basis. Questions, discussion and debate during classes will be strongly encouraged. Students are expected to keep informed of the current events in the West Asian region.

Method of Assessment:

A mid-term exam would consist of essay questions based upon the topics covered up to that point. It will be of 25 marks and student must answer two questions out of 4 of 12.5 marks each. The final exam conducted according to a schedule at the end of the semester will be of 75 marks. In the final exam, students must answer 5 out of 10 questions.