

# **Intellectual Development in West Asia**

Compulsory Course  
for  
M.A. (International Relations- West Asian Studies)  
Course No: MA- IRWAS -302  
Semester III  
Centre for West Asian Studies  
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

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## **Course Description**

The main objective of this course to understand the systematic treatment of the religious, intellectual, cultural, and social foundations of the Islamic development in the modern Arab world in context to Arab and Islamic intellectual history. This course provides an excellent summary of the intellectual origins of the Islamic development, drawing on the best Muslim and Western scholarship. This course further focuses on the study of leading Islamist thinkers as Hasan Banna, SayyhidQutb, Muhammad HusaynFadlallah, and Yusuf al-Qaradawi. It also discusses contemporary Arab views on development and the relationship between religion and society.

## **Unit I. Islam and Intellectual Development- The Contemporary Debate**

- Arab intellectuals' views on religion and Islamic movements
- The origins and nature of Political Islam in various countries
- Arab intellectuals' views on religion and Islamic movements
- The poetry of the Islamic State and how do jihadists represent themselves
- The Iranian revolution and its legacy

## **Unit II.Modern Intellectual Developmental History-I.**

- Sayyid Jamal al-Din Afghani Muhammad Abduh
- Pioneer of Islamic Reform, Mawdudi and the Jama't-Islami
- Khomeni's and Iran's intellectual development

### **Unit III.Modern Intellectual Developmental History-II.**

- Themes of Modern Arab Intellectual History
- Hasan al-Banna and the foundation of the Ikhwan- Intellectual Underpinnings
- Sayyid Qutb - the Pre-Ikhwan Phase and Sayyid Qutb's Thought between 1952 and 1962- A Prelude to His Qur'anic Exegesis

### **Unit IV.Intellectual Development after 9/11.**

- Al-Qaida
- ISIS
- Future if Ikhwan in Egypt
- Islamist after Arab spring

### **Reading List**

1. Abu-Rabi, Ibrahim M; (1995) Intellectual Origins of Islamic Resurgence in the Modern Arab World, Suny Series in Near Eastern Studies.
2. Rahnema, Ali; (1994).Pioneers of Islamic Revival, Zed Books: London
3. NazihN.Ayubi; (2003), Political Islam: Religion and Politics in the Arab world.Routlahe, London.
4. Zakaria,Fouad, (2005), Myth and Reality in the Contemporary Islamic Movement, Pluto Press.
5. Guazzone, Laura, (1st edition (February 1996), The Islamist Dilemma: The Political Role of Islamist Movements in the Contemporary Arab World, Ithaca

### **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.