

# INTS 381: Political Islam in Comparative Context

The course provides a multidisciplinary glimpse into the various ways that Islam manifests itself politically around the world. Part One looks to the faith – the scripture and organization of Islam. Part Two looks to the rise of Islamic politics in the post-colonial world. Then, the course will shift to discuss five manifestations which speak to the Janus-faced, conservative and progressive, nature of Political Islam: violence, simmering wars, Sharia Law, social justice, and human rights. The course concludes by considering democracy in the ongoing evolution of Political Islam. The primary objective of this course is to help students understand the fragmented, even contradictory nature of Political Islam. Even terms such as jihad or sharia contain diverse messages, from demanding violence to promoting education. Students are expected to overcome images of Islam as monolithic, and instead to look to Islam as a living religion, one struggling with the same social issues facing all other world faiths.

**Units:** 3

**Prerequisites:**

Sophomore standing or instructor consent.

**Program:** [Global and Thematic Issues](#)