

Professor Rula Jurdi Abisaab
Jan. 5-April 14, 2015
Thursdays, 1:35-3:25
Morrice Hall, Room 313
Office Hrs: W.Th. 12:30-1:30 & by appointment
E-mail: rula.abisaab@mcgill.ca

ISLA 611

Jihād in the Shi'ite Tradition: Hermeneutics and Historical Change

Course Description: Examines the concept of Jihād as elucidated in the major Twelver Shi'ite hadith texts and legal manuals. It provides students with an appreciation of the diverse approaches which the jurists took toward Jihād during the presence and absence of the Imam, the divinely inspired guide for the Shi'ite believer. It also sheds light on the methodology for deriving a legal opinion relating to Jihād, and the hermeneutical activities surrounding Jihād as presented in individual treatises (*rasā'il*) and injunctions (*fatāwā*) over a period spanning from the 12th to the 20th century. In addition to developing the student's knowledge of the transformation in the legal status of Jihād and various activities tied to it, the course aims to help students develop their knowledge of key Arabic Islamic legal and doctrinal terms, and enhance their skills in Arabic-English translation. Throughout the course we will be focusing on the complex connections between "Enjoining Right and Forbidding Wrong" and "Jihād" as well as the different forms of Jihād and their contexts.

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see <http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity> for more information).

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site <http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity>).

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

This right applies to all written work that is to be graded, from one-word answers to dissertations.

Required Readings

A Booklet of photocopied sections of Hadith and Legal Manuals dealing with Jihād. I will provide the class with 1 Copy.

Recommended Reading

- Michael Cook, *Commanding Right and Forbidding Wrong in Islamic Thought*
- Etan Kohlberg, "The Development of the Imami Shi'i Doctrine of Jihad." *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenlandischen Gesellschaft* 126 (1976), 1:68.
- Algar, Hamid. "Dar al-Harb" s.v. *Encyclopedia Iranica*, 1993.
- Al-Subhani, Ja'far. *Doctrines of Shi'i Islam: Compendium of Imami Beliefs and Practices*, ed. & trans. R. Shah-Kazemi, London, 2001.

- Nasr, Seyyed Hossein & H. Dabbashi & S.V.R. Nasr, "Jihad" in *Expectation of the Millennium: Shi'ism in History*, pages 58-64.
- Gleave, Robert, "Jihad and the religious legitimacy of the early Qajar state," in R. Gleave (ed.), *Religion and Society in Qajar Iran*, New York, 2005, 41-70.
- Najafabadi, Ayatullah Salehi, *Jihad in Islam*, trans. Hamid Mavani, Montreal, 2012.
- Safi, Omid, "Between Tradition and Reform: Between Premodern Sufism and the Iranian Reform Movement," in *Learned Ignorance and Intellectual Humility*, ed. James L. Heft & ...
- Meir M. Bar-Asher, *Scripture and Exegesis in Early Imami Shi'ism*; "Exegesis ii: In Shi'ism" in *Encyclopedia Iranica* online.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend class regularly, prepare the readings and translation of the readings from Arabic into English, and participate in the discussion of assigned materials.

The **First Assignment** is an Arabic-English translation of 8-10 pages (consecutive or excerpts) of a primary Arabic source unavailable in English, which is directly related to your research Or which you will use in your final paper.

The **Second Assignment** is a book review of Michael Cook, *Commanding Right and Forbidding Wrong*.

The third assignment is your **Final Research Paper**. It is 15-20 pages long and deals with a Shi'ite doctrinal or legal question or ritual. You are expected to show a command of the terminology in Arabic and offer a proper translation of them as well as transliteration, and to shed light on the varied scholarly opinions and debates surrounding this question. **The paper is due April 20th. I prefer a hard copy**, which you can drop in my mailbox on the same day and *Ms. Zeitun can sign on the back to confirm it was dropped off before 5:00 p.m. on that day* at the main office of the IIS, Morrice Hall, 4th Floor.

Your Final Grade is based on the following division:

Active Participation: Preparing the readings and the translation, and participating in class discussion (30%)

Translation Assignment (25%)

Book Review (15%)

Paper (30%)

Readings

Week 1

Thursday, Jan. 1st

Introduction to the Course

Week 2

Thursday, Jan. 8th

Al-amr bi-al-ma'rūf wa-al-nahī `an al-munkar

- Hamid Algar, "Dār al-Ḥarb," *Encyclopaedia Iranica* online
- Etan Kohlberg, "The Development of the Imami Shi'i Doctrine of Jihād,"

Al-Muḥaqqiq al-Ḥillī, *Sharā'i` al-Islām* vol.1, pp. *wa-al-nahī `an al-munkar*, 341-345

Week 3

Thursday, Jan. 15th

Jihad

Al-Muḥaqqiq al-Ḥillī, *Sharā'i`*, vol. 1, pp. 307-326

Week 4

Thursday, Jan. 22nd

Jihad

Al-Muḥaqqiq al-Ḥillī, *Sharā'i`*, vol. 1, pp. 307-326

Week 5

Thursday, Jan. 29th

Jihad

Al-Kulaynī, *Al-Kāfī (Furū` al-Kāfī)*, vol.5, Kitāb al-Jihād, 5-26

Week 6

Thursday, Feb. 5th

Jihad

Al-Kulaynī, *Al-Kāfī (Furū` al-Kāfī)*, vol.5, Kitāb al-Jihād, 5-26

Week 7

Thursday, Feb. 12th

Jihad

Al-Kulaynī, *Al-Kāfī (Furū` al-Kāfī)*, vol.5, Kitāb al-Jihād, 5-26

Submit Book Review

Week 8

Thursday, Feb. 19th

Al-amr bi-al-ma`rūf wa-al-nahī `an al-munkar

Muḥammad Jawād Mughniyya, *Fiqh al-Imām Ja'far al-Ṣādiq*, vol. 1, pp. 251-266

Week 9

Thursday, Feb. 26th

Al-amr bi-al-ma`rūf wa-al-nahī `an al-munkar

Muḥammad Jawād Mughniyya, *Fiqh al-Imām*, vol. 1, pp. 251-266

Check ***Tadhkirat al-Fuqahā'***, vol.9 in ***Al-Maktaba al-Shī'iyya***,

<http://shiaonlinelibrary.com/1>

See also Rāghib al-Rukābī's analysis on *Fī Zilāl Kitāb al-Jihād fī al-Islām*

Week 10
Classes Canceled----- Reading Week, March 2nd to 6th

Week 11
Thursday, March 12th
Sins and their Causes

Al-Taḳī al-Mudarressī, *Al-Wajīz fī al-Fiqh al-Islāmī: fiqh al-Jihād wa-aḥkām al-qitāl* accessed through: <http://www.almodarresi.com/books/31/index.htm>

Sections: “Ijtināb al-Kabā’ir min al-Dhunūb” until the section “Al-`Ishra al-Ḥamīda”, 4 pages. Also, “Man Nujāhid?” and “Bawā`ith al-Jihād”

Submit Translation Assignment

Week 12
Thursday, March 19th
Sins and their Causes

Sections: “Ijtināb al-Kabā’ir min al-Dhunūb” until the section “Al-`Ishra al-Ḥamīda”, 4 pages. “Man Nujāhid?” and “Bawā`ith al-Jihād”

Week 13
Thursday, March. 26th

Classes Cancelled—Rennaissance Society Conference in Berlin, March 23-27

Week 14
Thursday, April 2nd
Jihad in the Late 20th Century

Al-Mudarressī, *Al-Wajīz*,

Sections: Continue “Haqq al-Jihād”, “Awliyā’ Allāh”, “Wujūb al-Qitāl fī Sabīl Allāh”, “Asbāb al-Qitāl”, “Sharā’iṭ”, “Ḥukm al-Qitāl fī ...”,

(Compare to al-Khū’ī, *Minhāj al-Ṣāliḥīn*, vol.1, al-amr bi-al-ma’rūf, pp. 350-357; on Jihad, 360-403)

Week 15
Thursday, April 9th

Review of Main Themes and Conclusions