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 triche, 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
- 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-nahi `an al-munkar

- Hamid Algar, “Dār al-Ḥarb,” Encyclopaedia Iranica online
- Etan Kohlberg, “The Development of the Imami Shi‘i Doctrine of Jihād,”

**Week 3**  
Thursday, Jan. 15th  
*Jihad*


**Week 4**  
Thursday, Jan. 22nd  
*Jihad*


**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](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  
Also, “Man Nujāhid?” and “Bawā`ith al-Jihād”  
Submit Translation Assignment

**Week 12**  
Thursday, March 19th  
Sins and their Causes  
“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*,  
(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