Holy War in Judaism, Christianity and Islam
13-5-323
Spring semester

Dr. Jonathan Fine

Introduction

Political religious violence is not a new phenomena in human history, but it seems that religious motivated violence has been enjoying an impressive reappearance during the last quarter of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st. This contemporary political trend is led by various fundamental groups in all major religions, who pursue a consistent social - political agenda which in most cases is extremely violent. This course will examine this issue through three perspectives: The historical perspective, the theoretical perspective, and the analysis of actual case studies from Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Course Requirements

Besides full attendance, participation, and the fulfillment of reading assignments, both a mid term paper and a final paper will also be required. The mid term paper will present the topic for the final paper, a research question, a short presentation and bibliography, altogether no more than 3 PP. All Mid term papers will be handed in before the Pesach break. Each topic will be chosen in accordance with the lecturer and his guidance. It is very important to keep in mind that all final papers should be handed to the OSP office as hard copies or by Email no later then one week after the semester ends. No papers will be excepted after that date, and the student will fail the course! (Final papers should range between 15 – 25 PP (depending if they are refearts (15p) or seminars (25p). I can be reached by two Emails: jfine@idc.ac.il, jonathanfine2003@yahoo.com getting the two following books could very useful:

Language of instruction is English.

Main Disciplines: Politics, History

Course Structure:
Lecture: 4 hour lecture each week – one semester
Total # of Credits: 4
ECTS (European Credit Transfer System): 6

Part 1: The Origins of Holy War in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
General Introduction:


1. **The Sources of 'Holly War' in Judaism: "Milchemet Mitzva" (Commanded - War) and "Milchemet Reshut" (Discretionary War)**

Reading: (In all topics: a minimum of two readings is required).


2. **The Origins of 'Holy War' in Christianity: The Idea of "Jus ad Bellum" (Just War).**


Part .2: Theories On Religious Violence


4. Political Science and Religion: A General Overview

Silverman, AL. Just war, Jihad, and terrorism: A comparison of Western and Islamic norms for the use of political violence, in, *Church State*, No. 44, PP. 73 – 92.


6. Comparative Religions and Religious Violence


Part. 3: Actual Case Studies: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

7. The Rise of Modern Jewish Fundamentalism


8. The Rise of Modern Christian Fundamentalism

Gautier ML. Church elites and the restoration of civil society in the Communist societies of central Europe, in, Church & State (1998) No. 40, PP. 289 - 318


9. The Rise of Modern Islam Fundamentalism


