

Philosophy (TIME) 259: Rights, Religions, and Pluralism in the Middle East

Catalog description: Term in the Middle East students read and discuss the watershed western philosophical works on religious toleration and individual freedom, and some of the main contemporary debates on them. The course focuses on cross-cultural understandings of human rights, ethics, and different ways of coping with pluralism. Issues include whether there are common values, whether the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights is biased against Middle Eastern traditions, whether modernizations requires westernization or secularization, and whether religious convictions can justify violence. GE: Ethical Issues and Normative Perspectives (EIN).

Required texts to be purchased:

John Locke's *Letter Concerning Toleration*

John Stuart Mill's *On Liberty*

Mary Ann Glendon's *A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

Reza Aslan's *No God but God: the Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam*

The Qur'an, trans. M.A.S. Abdel Haleem,

Edward Langerak's *Civil Disagreement: Personal Commitment in a Pluralistic World*

Student contributions will include class participation (15% of grade); regular submission of informal comments and questions (intellectual journal) (15%); a midterm exam in Morocco (20%); a term paper due in Egypt (25%); and a final exam in Egypt (25%).

Turkey portion: emphasis on Human Rights and Religious Toleration.

Locke's *Toleration*

Selections from the other required texts except Mill

Selections from the *Bible* and the *Koran*

Mary Midgely's "Trying Out One's New Sword"

Robert Hanvey's "An Attainable Global Perspective"

David Little's "Human Rights and World Religions"

Morocco portion: emphasis on Rights and Pluralism, including relationships among modernization, westernization, and secularization.

Mill's *Liberty*

Selections from the required texts except Locke

Selections from the *Bible* and the *Koran*

Sissela Bok's "Cultural Diversity and Common Values"

Selection from Martha Nussbaum's *Women and Human Development*

Susan Moller Okin's "'Mistresses of Their Own Destiny': Group Rights, Gender, and Rights of Exit"

Langerak's "Covenantal Ethics in Cultural Context"

Egypt portion: emphasis on pluralism, including debate over role of religion in politics.

Selections from the required texts except Locke and Mill

Selections from the *Bible* and the *Koran*

Selections from Rudolph Peter's *Jihad in Classical and Modern Islam*

Selections from Rawl's *Political Liberalism*

Selections from William Galston's *Liberal Pluralism*