The Political Theology of Tariq Ramadan

Session: Winter 2012  
Day & Time  Monday 5:30-8:30  
Room TBA  

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Course Description
Offers students an introduction to the life and thought of Tariq Ramadan (1962–), one of the most prominent contemporary Western Muslim thinkers and a leading voice in the contemporary Muslim renewal (al-nahda) movement. Ramadan is a prolific and controversial author who has been described variously as a Muslim Martin Luther, a radical Islamist in disguise, and one of the most influential Muslim theologians in the world today. This course offers students an opportunity to encounter Tariq Ramadan and his ideas in his own words. Students will be guided through a close and careful reading of selected primary texts, with a view to better understanding Ramadan’s political theology as it relates to such perennial themes as the nature of God and what it means to be human; reason and revelation; religious, cultural, and moral diversity; justice; and identity.

Objectives
1) For students who are relatively unfamiliar with Islam, to learn enough about Islam to facilitate a serious engagement with contemporary texts in political theory written from a Muslim perspective.
2) To become familiar with and better understand the ideas of one of the most prominent contemporary Western Muslim thinkers.
3) To better understand the philosophical and theological dimensions of what is sometimes called the contemporary Muslim renewal (al-nahda) movement.
4) To consider what we might learn from Tariq Ramadan and his understanding of Islam about living with diversity.

Texts
Tariq Ramadan, *Islam, the West and the Challenges of Modernity* (Leicester: The Islamic Foundation, 2009).


Grading
In-class presentation: 20%
Essay based on presentation: 20%
Attendance and Participation: 20%
Major Essay: 40%

NB: Failure to follow essay documentary guidelines entails a penalty of 10%.