

COURSE DETAIL

RELIGION AND REVOLUTION

Country

Egypt

Host Institution

American University in Cairo

Program(s)

The American University in Cairo

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Anthropology

UCEAP Course Number

124

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

RELIGION AND REVOLUTION

UCEAP Transcript Title

RELIGION&REVOLUTION

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

This course examines the intricate relationship between religion and revolution, exploring how religion can simultaneously serve as a radical, messianic force for social transformation and as a guardian of the existing political order. It engages with foundational anthropological and philosophical texts that examine the intricate relation between revolution, religion and ethics — including works by Evans Pritchard, Marcel Mauss, Walter Benjamin, Victor Turner, Georges Bataille and Talal Asad — as well as writings on more recent revolutionary events, particularly in the Arab world, by authors such as Sami Zubaida, Asef Bayat, Walter Armbrust and Alice Wilson (among others). The course addresses the following set of questions: how can anthropology enable us to understand the social (and political) transformations that take place over the course of revolutionary events and their aftermaths? How have ethnographies examined the effects of revolutionary events on the level of the everyday life of communities that are experiencing them? How do ethnographers as witnesses or observers of revolutionary events (and sometimes as active participants in them) consider their own positionality in their respective field sites and in relation to the communities they wish to study? What kinds of moral and political stakes are involved in such positioning? What can ethnography tell us about our moral and political commitments (and disappointments)?

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

ANTH 3096

Host Institution Course Title

SELECTED TOPICS IN GLOBAL STUDIES: RELIGION AND REVOLUTION

Host Institution Course Details

<https://catalog.aucegypt.edu/content.php?catoid=38&navoid=1897>

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Sociology, Egyptology and Anthropology

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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