**Syllabus for Religion and Politics** to be taught at Bogazici University, Summer School, 2008

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**Course Overview:** This is a political philosophy course with some connections to moral and legal theory. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to perennial and contemporary political, legal and moral issues that bear on the topic of religion and politics. We will consider familiar topics such as: the role of the state in a religiously diverse society; religion and the rule of law; and the appropriate role of religious belief in official state policy. We will consider some less standard but relevant approaches to these issues such as the Crusades and their impact on Western and Middle-Eastern culture. We will also devote some time to examining the different models of secularism in the U.S. and Turkey as well as the relevance of liberal models of state neutrality to a Muslim context. To this end we will be asking and discussing questions such as: ‘Is the American model of secularism applicable to modern Turkey?’ ‘Is the Turkish model of secularism applicable to modern America?’ Readings will be composed of both classical and contemporary writings on these topics. Two classes will be devoted to films relevant to the topic.

**Reading List:**
Orhan Pamuk. *Snow*. 2005. (This is a novel which KSU students will be expected to have read prior to leaving for Turkey. Pamuk’s story provides a good introduction to contemporary debates in Turkey about secularism, Islam, multiculturalism and the state).  
James Madison, “Romonstration and Memorial” 1785.  

*All readings (except for Snow) will be made available for photo copy at Bogazici’s University Bookstore.*

**Films:**
Terry Jones, *The Crusades*.  

**Course Requirements:** There are 280 possible points. The grading scale is standard (i.e. 90% or more is an ‘A’, 80-89% is a ‘B’, etc.). 1) Attendance and participation: 20 points. To score points, come to class prepared to discuss the material, make comments, and ask questions about the readings. 2) 6 short essays on the reading assignments (1 for each week of the course): 10 points each; 60 points total. 3) A take home mid-term: 3-5 page essay on a question provided by the instructor: 100 points. 4) A take home final: 5-7 page essay on a topic chosen by the student and approved by the instructor. Topics and guidelines will be provided in advance.