**Political Theology: The Case of Islam** (THEO 355), Spring 2013, W 2:00-4:30, NN 107; Paul L. Heck

**Course Description**: This course looks to theology for insight into Muslim concepts of political sovereignty. How is God’s rule to be represented in the polity, especially when governance has taken different forms over the centuries (dynastic, democratic, etc.)? Muslims, like all peoples, live in concrete realities, but there are recurring even if varied patterns in Muslim thinking on the nature and purpose of rule. We proceed by considering perennial themes but also case studies from both past and present.

**Course Readings**: Available on Blackboard or On-Line (video clips or short articles).

**Course Goals**: 1) To garner insight into politics as a theological phenomenon.

 2) To learn more about political ideas in Islam.

 3) To think about political theology as a method.

**Course Etiquette**: Tardiness is unacceptable. No laptops.

**Course Requirements**: Participation (attendance, class engagement, and all that): 20%

 Class Presentations: 30%

 Final Paper: 50%

**Course Schedule** (subject to change)

January 16 Introduction: What is Political Theology?

January 23 Classical Islam: Covenant or Leviathan? Act One

January 30 Classical Islam: Covenant or Leviathan? Act Two

February 6 Sufism: Saintly Counsel or Alternative Polity?

February 13 Mahdism: Eschatological Politics

February 20 Religious Constitutionalism in a Secular Age

February 27 Religious Knowledge: Its Relation to Rule

March 6 Spring Break

March 13 Islamism: Political Salvation

March 20 Islamism: Religious Secularism

March 27 Salafism: The Pure Society

April 3 Salafism: The Pure Society

April 10 Martyrdom: Death as Birth of the Nation

April 17 Islamic Liberalism

April 24 The Ministry of Religious Affairs