

FALL 2007

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**ISLAMIC PHILOSOPHY,
THEOLOGY AND MYSTICISM**
(PHIL/REL 261)

Room: Comenius 114

Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:20-11:30 AM

LinC Category: M5 (Cultural Values and Global Issues)

Instructor: Shalahudin Kafrawi

Contents:

The course explores key notions and figures in Islamic philosophy, theology, and mysticism. It traces the interactions of Islam with Greek, Judeo-Christian, and Hindu traditions. Some issues embedded in the enormous body of scholarship in Muslim intellectual heritage as a result of these encounters are employed to examine current global issues such as the struggle for justice and peace and the fight against violence and absolutism. Special attention is given to the structure of Being, the notion of the truth, and the way to attain the truth in the three systems.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the course, students are expected to achieve the following objectives:

1. to distinguish main characteristics of three major perspectives in Islamic intellectual tradition: philosophy, theology, and mysticism;
2. to discuss the measure of truth in Islamic philosophy, theology and mysticism;
3. to explain the notion of Being in the tripartite system of Islamic intellectual tradition;
4. to discuss the pragmatic of the tripartite system in looking at global issues such as human rights, feminism, multiculturalism, tolerance, and struggle for peace and justice.

Grading Format:

1. Participation (20 points);
2. Two Structured papers (10 points each, totaling 20 points);
3. Research paper (7-15 pages; 30 points): research proposal (5 points); draft (5 points); and final submission (20 points);
4. Mid-term exam (10 points);
5. Final exam (20 points).

Extra Credits

Extra credits may be added to the total grade for the following:

1. Having complete attendance (5 points);
2. Publishing essay on Islamic perspective on global issues in campus publications, magazines or newspapers (5 points).

Attendance Policy:

Students are encouraged to attend all scheduled meetings for this course. An extra credit of 5 points will be awarded to those who have complete attendance. Students have the liberty to miss four classes without penalty. Those who miss more than four classes will be downgraded by 5 points of the total grade for each missed meeting after the four absences, unless they provide the instructor with a justified reason(s) in writing. The 5 points credit may be awarded to students who miss classes if the students provide the instructor with a justified reason(s) in writing and write a meaningful discussion on the reading(s) for those specific meetings.

Participation:

Students’ participation is highly valued. Active participation includes any input that enables the achievement of the course objectives. It includes—but not limited to—making comments about the reading, asking questions about the reading or the themes under discussion, answering questions posed by the instructor or the class, and suggesting alternative views on the issues in class discussion. Participation in a lecture(s) related to Islam or engagement/observation in Muslim activities such as *iftar*, whenever applicable, can be counted toward increasing the participation grade. Complete attendance without any form of participation indicated above will give students a participation grade of no more than D.

Paper Submissions:

All papers—including (1) structured papers, (2) research proposal, (3) draft, (4) final research paper, and (5) rewrites and other reports/assignments where applicable—should be electronically submitted through the Blackboard’s Assignment page or its Digital Drop Box on the indicated dates. If for some reason there is a problem with electronic submission on the Blackboard, the assignment should be sent via e-mail attachment or a printed copy of the paper should be submitted to the instructor’s office on the same day. Late submissions will be downgraded for that specific assignment by one point per day.

Students are encouraged to rewrite all papers except final research papers. The final research papers cannot be rewritten. The rewritten papers are due within a week after the papers are electronically posted. Since the grades of the rewritten papers can be better or worse than the originally submitted papers, the best grades will be counted toward the final.

Final Grade

Students will accumulate the points—there will be no conversion of points into grades—until the end of the semester. Below is the table of point conversion for the final grade:

Points	Final Grade	4-point conversion
95-100	A	4
90-95	A-	3.7
87-90	B+	3.3
84-87	B	3
80-84	B-	2.7
77-80	C+	2.3
74-77	C	2
70-74	C-	1.7
67-70	D+	1.3

64-67	D	1
60-64	D-	0.7
0-60	F	0

Academic Honesty:

Students are required to honor academic integrity. The course imposes the application of Moravian College's Academic Honesty Policy. The policy is to be found at Moravian College's *Student Handbook: 2006-2007*, pp. 26-31.

Contact Information:

Office: Zinzendorf 201
 Phone: (610) 861-1628
 E-mail: skafrawi@moravian.edu
 Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 12:15-1:15 PM;
 Wednesday, 12:15-2:15 PM;
 And by appointment.

Required Textbooks Available at Moravian Bookstore:

Anwar, Etin. *Gender and Self in Islam*. London and New York: Routledge, 2006.
 Averroes. *Decisive Treatise and Epistle Dedicatory*. Trans. Charles Butterworth. Brigham Young University Press, 2001.
 Fakhry, Majid. *A Short History of Islamic Philosophy, Theology and Mysticism*. Oxford: Oneworld, 2005.
 Morewedge, Parviz. *Essays in Islamic Philosophy, Theology, and Mysticism*. Oneonta: Department of Philosophy, 2003.
 Sachedina, Abdulaziz. *The Islamic Roots of Democratic Pluralism*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Required Materials Available at Reeves' Reserve:

Abrahamov, Binyamin. "The Bila> Kayfa Doctrine and Its Foundations in Islamic Theology." *Arabica*. Vol. 42, no. 3 (1995). Pp. 365-79.
 Abu-Nimer, Mohammed. *Non-Violence and Peace Building in Islam: Theory and Practice*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2003. Pp. 11-47.
 Al-Ash'ari>. *Kita>b al-Luma'*. In Richard J. McCarthy. *The Theology of al-Ash'ari>*. Beirut: Impremiere Catholique, 1953.
 Donaldson, D.M. "Truth and Falsehood in Islam." *Muslim World*. Vol. 33, no. 4 (1943). Pp. 277-85.
 Heath, Peter. *Allegory and Philosophy in Avicenna*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1992. Pp. 80-106.
 Hujwiri, Ali b. Uthman al-. *The Kashf al-Mahjub*. Trans. Reynold A. Nicholson. Lahore: Islamic Book Foundation, 1982. Pp. 30-44
 McGinnis, Jon. "Scientific Methodologies in Islam." *Journal of the History of Philosophy*. Vol. 41, no. 3 (July 2003). Pp. 307-27.
 Murata, Sachiko and William C. Chittick. *The Vision of Islam*. St. Paul: Paragon House, 1994. Pp. 3-27, 132-9 and 164-75.
 Nasr, Seyyed Hossein. "Unity and Diversity in Islam and Islamic Civilization." In Abdul Aziz Said and Meena Sharify-Funk, eds. *Cultural Diversity and Islam*. Lanham: University of New York, 2003. Pp. 31-8.

- Nasr, Seyyed Hossein. *The Heart of Islam: Enduring Values for Humanity*. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 2002. Pp. 3-54, 215-22, 237-72 and 273-306.
- Nasr, Seyyed Hossein and Oliver Leaman. *History of Islamic Philosophy*. London: Routledge: 1996. Pp. 21-39.
- Radtke, Bernard and John O’Kane. *The Concept of Sainthood in Early Islamic Mysticism*. Richmond: Curzon Press, 1996. Pp. 98-137.
- Rahman, Fazlur. *Islam*. 2nd edition. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2002. Pp. 85-99 and 128-49.
- Said, Abdul Aziz and Meena Sharify-Funk. “Dynamics of Cultural Diversity and Tolerance in Islam.” In Abdul Aziz Said and Meena Sharify-Funk, eds. *Cultural Diversity and Islam*. Lanham: University of New York, 2003. Pp. 17-29.
- Sardar, Ziauddin and Merryl Wyn Davies. *The No-Nonsense Guide to Islam*. London: Verso, 2004. Pp. 30-51.
- Soroush, Abdul Karim. *Non-Causal Theory of Justice in Rumi’s Work*. Binghamton: IGCS, 1993. Pp. 1-6.

No.	Date	Topic and Reading	Due date
1	8/27/2007	An Overview [Reading: Sardar and Davies, <i>Islam</i> , 30-51; Syllabus]	
2	8/29/2007	General Survey 1: [Fakhry, <i>A Short History of Islamic Philosophy, Theology and Mysticism</i> , 1-62]	
3	9/4/2007	General Survey 2: [Fakhry, <i>A Short History of Islamic Philosophy, Theology and Mysticism</i> , 63-112] [[Final day for course change]]	
4	9/6/2007	General Survey 3: [Fakhry, <i>A Short History of Islamic Philosophy, Theology and Mysticism</i> , 113-42]	
5	9/11/2007	Tripartite Perspective 1: Philosophy [Reading: Nasr and Leaman, <i>History of Islamic Philosophy</i> , 21-39]	
6	9/13/2007	Tripartite Perspective 2: Theology [Readings: Morewedge, <i>Essays in Islamic Philosophy, Theology, and Mysticism</i> , 1-35; and Rahman, <i>Islam</i> , 85-99.] [[First day of Ramadan; Rosh Hasanah, 9/12-14]]	Structured paper 1
7	9/18/2007	Tripartite Perspective 3: Mysticism [Reading: Rahman, <i>Islam</i> , 128-49]	
8	9/20/2007	Tripartite Perspective 4: Harmony [Reading: Ibn Rushd, <i>Decisive Treatise</i> , 1-33]	
9	9/25/2007	On the Notion of Being 1: Philosophy [Readings: Morewedge, <i>Essays in Islamic Philosophy, Theology, and Mysticism</i> , 57-125]	Research Proposal
10	9/27/2007	On the Notion of Being 2: Theology [Reading: Ash’ari, <i>The Theology of Ash’ari</i> , 6-73] [[Sukkot, 9/26-28]]	
11	10/2/2007	On the Notion of Being 3: Mysticism	Mid-Term

		[Readings: Morewedge, <i>Essays in Islamic Philosophy, Theology, and Mysticism</i> , 219-57]	Exam
12	10/4/2007	On truth and Epistemology 1 [Reading: Abrahamov, "The Bila Kayfa Doctrine," pp. 365-79]	
	10/5/2007	[[Mid Term Report]]	
	10/9/2007	[[Fall Recess from 10/6 at noon to 10/10 at 7:30 AM]]	
13	10/11/2007	On truth and Epistemology 2 [Readings: Donaldson, "Truth and Falsehood in Islam," 277-85; Averroes, <i>decisive Treatise and Epistle Dedicatory</i> , 38-46]	
		[[Id al-Fitr on 10/13/07]]	
14	10/16/2007	On truth and Epistemology 3 [Reading: Radtke and O'Kane, <i>The Concept of Sainthood in Early Islamic Mysticism</i> , 98-137; Heath, <i>Allegory and Philosophy in Avicenna</i> , 80-106]	Draft of research paper
15	10/18/2007	The Way of Salvation 1 [Reading: McGinnis, "Scientific Methodologies in Islam," 307-27]	
16	10/23/2007	The Way of Salvation 2 [Reading: Murata and Chittick, <i>The Vision of Islam</i> , 3-27]	Structured paper 2
17	10/25/2007	The Way of Salvation 3 [Reading: Hujwiri, <i>Kashf al-Mahjub</i> , 30-44]	
18	10/30/2007	Human Rights [Reading: Nasr, <i>The Heart of Islam</i> , 273-306]	
19	11/1/2007	Justice [Readings: Nasr, <i>The Heart of Islam</i> , 237-72; Soroush, "Non-Causal Theory of Justice in Rumi's Work," 1-6]	
20	11/6/2007	Peace Building [Readings: Nasr, <i>The Heart of Islam</i> , 215-22; Abu-Nimer, <i>Non-Violence and Peace Building in Islam</i> , 11-47]	
21	11/8/2007	Unity in Multiplicity 1 [Reading: Said and Sharify-Funk. "Dynamics of Cultural Diversity and Tolerance in Islam," 17-29; Nasr, "Unity and Diversity in Islam and Islamic Civilization," 31-8]	
22	11/13/2007	Unity in Multiplicity 2 [Reading: Nasr, <i>The Heart of Islam</i> , 3-54]	
23	11/15/2007	Unity in Multiplicity 3 [Reading: Murata and Chittick, <i>The Vision of Islam</i> , 132-9 and 164-75]	
		[[Thanksgiving Recess from 11/20 at 10 PM to 11/26 at 7:30 AM]]	
24	11/27/2007	Feminism 1 [Reading: Anwar, <i>Gender and Self in Islam</i> , 16-71]	Research paper
25	11/29/2007	Feminism 2 [Reading: Anwar, <i>Gender and Self in Islam</i> , 72-116]	
26	12/4/2007	Feminism 3	

		[Reading: Anwar, <i>Gender and Self in Islam</i> , 117-46]	
27	12/6/2007	Concluding Remarks	
		[[Final Exams on 12/12-15 and 12/17-19]]	
		[[Id al-Adha on 12/20/07]]	