

Islamic Thought

PHIL-3250

Spring 2020 Section 01W 3 Credits 01/04/2020 to 05/05/2020 Modified 12/29/2019

Description

This course examines the development of Islamic thought from the lifetime of Muhammad to the present day. Some of the areas of thought to be addressed in the course include theology, ethics, law, philosophy, and politics. A major focus of this course is to draw connections between theoretical developments in the history of Islamic thought and contemporary events in the Islamic world.

Requisites

Prerequisites:

Corequisites:

Contact Information

Dr. Rosemary Kellison

Email: rkelliso@westga.edu

Office: TLC 2245

Phone: 678-839-5514

Office Hours

Tuesday, Thursday, 10:00 AM to 10:50 AM, TLC 2245

Tuesday, Thursday, 12:20 PM to 1:50 PM, TLC 2245

Tuesday, Thursday, 3:20 PM to 4:00 PM, TLC 2245

I will also have office hours every other Wednesday and some Fridays. See the Announcements on the CourseDen homepage for updates on weekly office hours.

Outside of my normal office hours, I am also happy to set up appointments to chat via voice, video, or instant message on Google Hangouts. Email me for an appointment.

Meeting Times

Tuesday, Thursday, 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM, Pafford 112

Materials

Sexual Ethics and Islam: Feminist Reflections on Qur'an, Hadith, and Jurisprudence

Author: Kecia Ali

Publisher: Oneworld

Edition: 2nd ed.

ISBN: 978-1780743813

Al-Ghazali's Path to Sufism: His Deliverance from Error (al-Munqidh min al-Dalal)

Author: Abu Hamid Muhammad al-Ghazali (translated by R. J. McCarthy)

Publisher: Fons Vitae

Edition: 2nd ed.

ISBN: 978-1887752305

Qur'an and Woman: Rereading the Sacred Text from a Woman's Perspective

Author: Amina Wadud

Publisher: Oxford University Press

ISBN: 978-0195128369

All other course readings, marked (CD) on the course schedule, are available in the Readings folder on CourseDen.

Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- define and use basic vocabulary of Islamic thought,
- describe and critically analyze the arguments of several significant Islamic thinkers,
- identify examples of both diversity and continuity within Muslim tradition,
- give a critical account of the development of major trends and debates in Islamic thought,
- and write a sophisticated philosophical essay about a specific topic in Islamic thought.

These course-specific learning outcomes contribute to the departmental learning outcomes of the Philosophy Program by enabling you to:

- discuss the views of major historical figures of philosophy,
- critically analyze and explain a philosophical issue in written communications, and
- incorporate and defend a philosophical position in oral communications.

Evaluation

Breakdown

Grade	Range	Notes
A	90–100	
B	80–89	
C	70–79	
D	60–69	
F	0–59	

Criteria

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
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Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Participation	21%		<p>To earn an excellent participation grade, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • come to class on time each day. • be attentive and engaged during class. • bring the assigned reading to class and be prepared to reference it. • participate in class discussions in a way that demonstrates familiarity with and critical thinking about the assigned readings. • show respect for classmates by adhering to the participation ground rules we formulate on the first day of class. <p>When you are not in class, you cannot participate, nor can you engage in the very important parts of learning that take place only in the classroom. Therefore, you are expected to attend class every day. Documentation of an illness, emergency, or other approved university-approved reason for absence must be provided in order for an absence to be excused. Deductions will be assessed on your participation grade for excessive late arrivals or early departures and for more than two unexcused absences.</p> <p>Your participation will be assessed according to a rubric (available on CourseDen) that measures your conduct and respect for others, use of the readings, quality of reasoning, and frequency of contributions. Participation will be graded three times throughout the semester (once every five weeks).</p>
Discussion Leading	5%		<p>Each student will lead discussion once this semester. On your day (which we will sign up for during the first week of class), you will present a very brief overview of the most important points from the day's reading. You will also raise three questions for class discussion. An excellent discussion leader will explain why these questions are relevant for critical understanding of the reading's central points and will also be prepared with specific passages from the reading that will aid in discussing the questions. You must submit your questions on CourseDen by 9 am on your discussion leading day.</p>
Weekly Reading Journal	44%		<p>This journal is intended to help you become a more critical reader and to practice the skills of identifying and developing topics for philosophical writing. Dr. Kellison will provide prompts for each week's journal entry.</p> <p>Your highest 11 (out of 13 total) journal grades will count toward your final grade; each is worth 4% of your final grade. Journal entries are due by 12 pm (noon) every Monday (starting on Jan. 20 and ending on Apr. 20) (but feel free to submit them on the previous Thursday or Friday if you'd like). Entries will be submitted online through CourseDen. No late entries will be accepted.</p> <p><i>Note: Should it become clear that many students are failing to complete the assigned reading prior to each class period, this assignment will shift to a daily reading journal (worth 2% each) due each day when class begins.</i></p>
Final Essay	30%		<p>To wrap up this discipline-specific writing course, you will write a 3000-word essay on a topic of your choosing relevant to Islamic thought. Your essay project includes the following components, all of which will be explained in detail in class and on CourseDen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question (3%): A brief description of the specific philosophical question you will address in your essay • Outline/Abstract/First Two Pages (4%): A two-page document outlining the basic steps you plan to take in constructing your essay's argument • First Draft (5%): A polished draft of at least 2250 words of your essay • Final Essay (18%): Final essay of at least 3000 words, incorporating revisions suggested on your first draft <p>Late submissions of any final-essay assignments will be penalized 10% per day late unless Dr. Kellison has approved an extension prior to the due date.</p>

Schedule

When	Topic	Notes
01/07/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Introduction to Course and Syllabus	

When	Topic	Notes
01/09/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Basic Introduction to Islam and the Qur'an	Daniel W. Brown, "The Life of Muhammad" (CD)
01/14/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Basic Introduction to Islam and the Qur'an	Selected Qur'an suras with commentary from Michael Sells's <i>Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations</i> (CD)
01/16/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Basic Introduction to Islam and the Qur'an	Amina Wadud, <i>Qur'an and Woman</i> , preface, introduction, & ch. 1
01/20/2020 12:00 PM - 12:00 PM	Journal #1 Due	
01/21/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Basic Introduction to Islam and the Qur'an	Amina Wadud, <i>Qur'an and Woman</i> , chs. 2 & 3
01/23/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Basic Introduction to Islam and the Qur'an	Amina Wadud, <i>Qur'an and Woman</i> , ch. 4 & conclusion
01/27/2020 12:00 PM - 12:00 PM	Journal #2 Due	
01/28/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Selected Issue in Theology: God, Morality, and Reason	George F. Hourani, "Two Theories of Value in Early Islam" and "Ash'ari" (CD)
01/30/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Selected Issue in Theology: God, Morality, and Reason	Abu al-Hasan al-Ash'ari, <i>Kitab al-Luma'</i> (ch. 3 & ch. 5 [paras. 82–93]) (CD)
02/03/2020 12:00 PM - 12:00 PM	Journal #3 Due	
02/04/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Selected Issue in Theology: God, Morality, and Reason	Abu al-Hasan al-Ash'ari, <i>Kitab al-Luma'</i> (ch. 5) (CD)
02/06/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Selected Issue in Theology: God, Morality, and Reason	Abu al-Hasan al-Ash'ari, <i>Kitab al-Luma'</i> (ch. 7) (CD)
02/10/2020 12:00 PM - 12:00 PM	Journal #4 Due	
02/11/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Selected Issue in Theology: God, Morality, and Reason	George F. Hourani, "The Rationalist Ethics of 'Abd al-Jabbar" (CD)
02/13/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Selected Issue in Theology: God, Morality, and Reason	'Abd al-Jabbar excerpts: "On Rational Interpretation of Scripture" and "Mu'tazili Five Principles" (CD)

When	Topic	Notes
02/17/2020 12:00 PM - 12:00 PM	Journal #5 Due	
02/18/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Piety and Virtue	Abu Hamid Muhammad al-Ghazali, <i>Deliverance from Error</i> , pgs. 9–31
02/20/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Piety and Virtue	Abu Hamid Muhammad al-Ghazali, <i>Deliverance from Error</i> , pgs. 31–59
02/24/2020 12:00 PM - 12:00 PM	Journal #6 Due	
02/25/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Piety and Virtue	Abu Hamid Muhammad al-Ghazali, <i>Deliverance from Error</i> , pgs. 59–80
02/27/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Piety and Virtue	Annemarie Schimmel, TBA (CD)
02/28/2020 4:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Last day to withdraw with a grade of W	
03/02/2020 12:00 PM - 12:00 PM	Journal #7 Due	
03/03/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Piety and Virtue	Annemarie Schimmel, TBA (CD)
03/05/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Piety and Virtue	Saba Mahmood, TBA (CD)
03/09/2020 12:00 PM - 12:00 PM	Journal #8 Due	
03/10/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Piety and Virtue	Saba Mahmood, TBA (CD)
03/12/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Selected Issue in Ethics: Sexual Ethics	Kecia Ali, <i>Sexual Ethics and Islam</i> (Introduction & ch. 1 [skip coda 1])
03/13/2020 2:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Final Essay Assignment Due	<i>Philosophical question for final essay due by 2 pm</i>
03/23/2020 12:00 PM - 12:00 PM	Journal #9 Due	

When	Topic	Notes
03/24/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Selected Issue in Ethics: Sexual Ethics	Kecia Ali, <i>Sexual Ethics and Islam</i> (chs. 2 [skip coda 2] & 3)
03/26/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Selected Issue in Ethics: Sexual Ethics	Kecia Ali, <i>Sexual Ethics and Islam</i> (chs. 4 [skip coda 4] & 7 [pgs. 146–60])
03/27/2020 2:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Final Essay Assignment Due	<i>Outline, abstract, or first two pages for final essay due by 2 pm</i>
03/30/2020 12:00 PM - 12:00 PM	Journal #10 Due	
03/31/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Selected Issue in Ethics: Sexual Ethics	Kecia Ali, <i>Sexual Ethics and Islam</i> (chs. 7 [pgs. 160–68], 8 [skip coda 8], & 9)
04/02/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Sharia and the Modern State (Example: Egypt)	Albert Hourani, “Muhammad ‘Abduh” (CD)
04/06/2020 12:00 PM - 12:00 PM	Journal #11 Due	
04/07/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Sharia and the Modern State (Example: Egypt)	Noah Feldman, TBA (CD) <i>Scholars' Day—no class meeting today</i>
04/09/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Sharia and the Modern State (Example: Egypt)	Hasan al-Banna, “Toward the Light” (CD)
04/10/2020 2:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Final Essay Assignment Due	<i>Draft of final essay due by 2 pm</i>
04/13/2020 12:00 PM - 12:00 PM	Journal #12 Due	
04/14/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Sharia and the Modern State (Example: Egypt)	Sayyid Qutb, “The America I Have Seen” (CD)
04/16/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Sharia and the Modern State (Example: Egypt)	Sayyid Qutb, <i>Signposts</i> and “In the Shade of the Qur’an” excerpts (CD)
04/20/2020 12:00 PM - 12:00 PM	Journal #13 Due	
04/21/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Sharia and the Modern State (Example: Egypt)	Arab Spring news articles (CD) In class: watch <i>The Square</i>

When	Topic	Notes
04/23/2020 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Sharia and the Modern State (Example: Egypt)	In class: finish <i>The Square</i> and discuss Egypt today
04/28/2020 2:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Final Essay Due	<i>Final essay due by 2 pm</i>

* Course Policies and Resources

For Honors Students

If you wish to earn Honors credit for this course, you must bring the appropriate paperwork to Dr. Kellison immediately to establish an Honors contract for the course. Completed Honors contracts must be submitted by the end of the second week of classes.

Course Policy on Academic Dishonesty

The minimum penalty for any instance of academic dishonesty in this course will be a grade of 0 on the assignment in question. Repeated instances of academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade for the entire course. See more information on the UWG Honor Code below (under Institutional Policies). Never hesitate to ask Dr. Kellison any questions regarding citation, quotation, or how to avoid plagiarism.

Institutional Policies

Online Courses

UWG takes students' privacy concerns seriously: technology-enhanced and partially and fully online courses use sites and entities beyond UWG and students have the right to know the privacy policies of these entities. For more information on privacy and accessibility for the most commonly used sites, as well as technology requirements visit the [UWG Online \(https://uwgonline.westga.edu/\)](https://uwgonline.westga.edu/) site.

Students enrolled in online courses can find answers to many of their questions in the [Online/Off-Campus Student Guide \(http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php\)](http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php).

If a student is experiencing distress and needs help, please see the resources available at the [UWG Cares \(http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/\)](http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/) site. [Online counseling \(https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php) is also available for online students.

Academic Support

Accessibility Services: Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given. For more information, please contact [Accessibility Services \(https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php).

Center for Academic Success: The [Center for Academic Success \(http://www.westga.edu/cas/\)](http://www.westga.edu/cas/) provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6280 or cas@westga.edu.

University Writing Center: The [University Writing Center \(https://www.westga.edu/writing/\)](https://www.westga.edu/writing/) assists students with all areas of the writing process. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6513 or writing@westga.edu.

Honor Code

At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.

The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing. Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of academic penalties including, but not limited to, failing the assignment and/or failing the course. Student conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student's conduct record at UWG.

Additionally, the student is responsible for safeguarding his/her computer account. The student's account and network connection are for his/her individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. The student is responsible for all actions originating through his/her account or network connection. Students must not impersonate others or misrepresent or conceal their identities in electronic messages and actions. For more information on the University of West Georgia Honor Code, please see the [Student Handbook \(https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/handbook-code-of-conduct.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/handbook-code-of-conduct.php).

UWG Email Policy

University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to check his or her email.

Credit Hour Policy

The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in-class or other direct faculty instruction AND two hours of student work outside of class per week for approximately fifteen weeks. For each course, the course syllabus will document the amount of in-class (or other direct faculty instruction) and out-of-class work required to earn the credit hour(s) assigned to the course. Out-of-class work will include all forms of credit-bearing activity, including but not limited to assignments, readings, observations, and musical practice. Where available, the university grants academic credit for students who verify via competency-based testing, that they have accomplished the learning outcomes associated with a course that would normally meet the requirements outlined above (e.g. AP credit, CLEP, and departmental exams).

HB 280 (Campus Carry)

UWG follows University System of Georgia (USG) guidance: http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information# (http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information)

You may also visit our website for help with USG Guidance: <https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php> (<https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php>)

Mental Health Support

If you or another student find that you are experiencing a mental health issue, free confidential services are available on campus in the [Counseling Center](#). Students who have experienced sexual or domestic violence may receive confidential medical and advocacy services with the Patient Advocates in [Health Services](#). To report a concern anonymously, please go to [UWGCares](#).

Additional Items
