

SPRING 2014

ISLAMIC SPIRITUALITY/ RUMI SEMINAR 840:556/456:01

Time and Place: Mondays, 5:35-8:25, with a ten-minute break half-way. Loree, Room 131, Douglass Campus

Professor: J. Mojaddedi **Office:** Loree, Room 104, Douglass Campus; jamojaddedi@hotmail.com

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10.30-12.00, at the professor's office, or by appointment.

Course Description:

Rumi is today the most well-known Sufi across the world. His legacy suggests that this is not undeserved, for he not only composed thousands of verses of poetry that became revered internationally, but his disciples formed, on the basis of his teachings, a Sufi order that became highly influential for many centuries in three different continents. Moreover, he has come to be considered in much of the world as one of the greatest ever Sufis. This seminar will therefore focus on Rumi and his writings, in order to acquire and in-depth understanding of Islamic spirituality. The method will be to contextualize Rumi historically and then analyze his poetry and discourses, with an emphasis on his didactic poetry. At every stage, the analysis of texts in translation will be emphasized, both as a means to acquire a more in-depth and nuanced understanding, and also to develop skills in textual analysis that are indispensable for graduate study. Original sources can be provided for anyone who reads Persian.

Required Book: Ahmet Karamustafa, *Sufism: The Formative Period*, University of California Press, 2007.

Other Readings: The specific readings for individual lectures from sources other than the required textbooks will be available on the e-Companion shell for this course.

e-companion: Everyone needs to log in to the e-companion site for this course, at <https://ecollege.rutgers.edu> . If anybody has problems with accessing e-companion they should write to help@ecollege.rutgers.edu and inform the professor as soon as possible, as it will be necessary to use this facility.

Class participation: Since this is a seminar, there will be a minimum of lectures and so class participation will be a major determinant of the final grade (30%, meaning that a fail is likely without participation). A successful class will be one in which the instructor's voice is hardly heard at all, though he is always ready to respond to questions, raise further issues, and provide clarifications when needed.

Weekly Reaction Papers: Every week each student is to bring to class a one-page (250 + word) reaction paper on the readings. These will serve as the basis for our discussions. The first paragraph should summarize what you see as the most important points discussed in the readings and the second paragraph should raise further issues about their broader significance for discussion. Papers will be graded and returned to you. After they are returned, all the papers are to be saved and handed in together at the beginning of the final class on May 5th. Here are a few resources for how to write Reaction Papers:

<http://twp.duke.edu/uploads/assets/response%20paper.pdf>

<http://leo.stcloudstate.edu/acadwrite/reaction.html>

<http://homeworktips.about.com/od/essaywriting/tp/How-To-Write-A-Response-Paper.htm>

Research Paper: The final version of the research paper is to be submitted during the final class of the semester May 5th. The paper will be written by a process of multiple drafts. A one-page description of your proposed topic with bibliography is due to the instructor at the beginning of the class on February 10th. A first draft of this essay of at least 75% of the total length required (see below) is due at the beginning of class on the Monday before spring break, March 10th. During the final weeks of class each student will present his or her paper to the class.

Late papers (proposal, draft or final) without an official Excused Absence will be penalized by one point out of the total points for that paper per 24 hours, or part of a 24 hour period. Papers short of the minimum length specified will be penalized according to the number of words missing. Spelling and grammar will be taken into consideration in grading all papers, which should be typed double-spaced on letter size paper. Each paper must be typed and submitted in hard copy at the beginning of the class on May 5th and also uploaded to e-Companion for plagiarism scanning before midnight on May 5th.

Plagiarism will result in an immediate fail for the course. There is a link on the e-Companion Webliography to the Rutgers position regarding plagiarism and further relevant details. It is always essential to ask if uncertain about any of these issues, before handing in your paper.

Laptops and Cell-phones: Since this seminar is based on interaction, no “barrier screens” are welcome, whether cell-phones, tablets or laptops etc. All cell-phones, pagers, etc. must also be turned off during class. Anyone whose device goes off during class will be asked to leave for the remainder of that period. Any violation of this policy results in a letter grade reduction of one’s overall grade. Exceptions will be made only after the production of a letter of support from the disability’s office. In this seminar, data is found in the readings, and it is more important to engage in and follow discussions in class than to record data.

Final Grade Constituents:

30% participation,

10% Reaction papers,

60% Research paper (3,500-4,500 words for undergraduates; 5,500-6,500 words for graduate students) (includes points for proposal and first draft).

Grade Scheme: A=100-90, B+= 89-87, B=86-80, C+=79-77, C=76-70, D=69-65, F=64

An incomplete (“T” grade) will not normally be given for this course.

Special Needs: Any student with special needs or health issues must inform the professor as soon as possible to make arrangements that will ensure a successful learning experience on this course.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:

1/27 Introduction and Defining “Sufism” and “Islamic”

Takim, *The Heirs of the Prophet*, pp. 11-30.

Morris, “Situating Islamic Mysticism, pp. 293-310

2/3 Early Sufism

Karamustafa, pp. 1-55

Calder et al., *Classical Islam*, pp. 303-6, 311-316

Radtke and O’Kane, trs, *The Concept of Sainthood*, pp. 146-158, 171-4

2/10 ***The Qur’an and Muhammad Interpreted Mystically (Description of Paper Topic Due)

Chraibi, *Muhammad: A Novel*, pp. 13-90

Calder et al., *Classical Islam*, pp. 94-99, 163-167, 171-75.

2/17 Sufism and the Ulama

Karamustafa, pp. 96-108

Mojaddedi, *Beyond Dogma*, pp. 42-60, 74-85, 113-31, 146-56

Calder et al., *Classical Islam*, pp. 307-10.

Sells, *Early Islamic Mysticism*, pp. 239-42.

2/24 *** Sufi Orders

NO MEETING Ohlander Meeting and Lecture on Wednesday 2/26

In advance, read Karamustafa, pp. 114-71

3/3 Antinomianism

Karamustafa, *God’s Unruly Friends*, pp. 1-49, 97-102

De Bruijn, The “qalandariyyat” in Persian Mystical Poetry,” pp. 75-86

Calder et al., *Classical Islam*, pp. 352-55.

3/10*** Rumi’s Biography (First Draft of Paper Due)

Keshavarz, *Reading Mystical Lyric*, pp. 1-12

Mojaddedi, *Beyond Dogma*, pp. 9-18.

Lewis, *Rumi, Past, Present, East and West*, pp. 272-85

Aflaki, *The Feats of the Knowers of God*, pp. 61-65, 425-9, 650-6

-----SPRING BREAK -----

3/24 Rumi's Ghazals

Arberry, tr., *Mystical Poems of Rumi 1 and 2*, #s 51, 55, 102, 170, 215, 222, 241, 253

De Bruijn, *Persian Mystical Poetry*, pp. 51-83

Keshavarz, *Reading Mystical Lyric*, pp. 138-160

3/31 Rumi's Masnavi: Introduction

De Bruijn, *Persian Sufi Poetry*, pp. 84-113

Attar, *Conference of the birds*, p. 66-86

The Masnavi: Book One, pp. 3-23

Karamustafa, "Speaker, Voice and Audience."

4/7 Rumi's Teachings: "Islam" and Mysticism

Mojaddedi, *Beyond Dogma*, pp. 30-46, 64-74, 93-113

The Masnavi, Bk. 2, pp. 101-105, 129-31, 152-65, 194-201

The Masnavi, Bk. 3, pp. 78-91, 141-57

4/14 Rumi's Teachings: Oneness and Union

Chittick, "Rūmī and *Waḥ dat al-wujūd*," pp. 70-111

The Masnavi, Bk. 1, pp. 185-97, 227-43

The Masnavi, Bk. 3, pp. 223-238

4/21 Rumi's Teachings: sama`

Avery, *Psychology of Early Sufi Sama*, pp. 10-54

The Masnavi, Bk. 1, pp. 119-37

The Masnavi, Bk. 3, pp. 256-60

<http://www.sufism.org/society/sema.html>

4/28 * NO MEETING**

Work on research papers

5/5 * Rumi in Contemporary America (Final Research Paper Due)**

R. Feild, *The Last Barrier*, pp. 108-155.