

SPRING 2011 ISLAMIC MYSTICAL LITERATURE 840:394:02 (685:396:04)

Time and Place: TTh, 1.10-2.30, Scott Hall, 119, College Ave.

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

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3.30-5.00, at the professor's office, or by appointment.

Course Description: This course will examine the literary output of mystics in the Islamic world. As a religion course, the main focus will be on mystical teachings, although attention will also be paid to the literary genres represented, which include not only poetry of various forms and from diverse regions and periods, but also biography and the modern novel, all in English translation. Audio-visual resources shall be used to witness the performance of poetry in mystical rituals and in more popularized forms.

Required Textbooks:

1. Driss Chraïbi, *Muhammad*, tr. Benabid, Rienner, 1998.
2. Attar, *Conference of the Birds*, tr. Darbandi and Davis, Penguin Classics, 1984.
3. R. Feild, *The Last Barrier*, Steiner, 2002.

Other Readings The specific readings for individual lectures, other than the required textbooks, are available as pdfs in the E-companion Documents List, for you to download, print out, and bind, to serve as your own cost-effective course pack.

Preparation, attendance and participation: Everybody enrolled is expected to attend classes, having already read the assignment indicated, and to contribute to discussions. I will call on members of the class randomly with questions to make sure they have done the readings. 5% of the final grade will depend on the responses given to these questions. In addition to answering the questions on the readings, attendance and active participation in discussions are also rewarded in the final grade (see below). Attendance of a class can only be established by indicating your presence at the beginning and remaining in the classroom for the full duration, unless prior agreement has been obtained from the professor. An Excused Absence can only be obtained by producing a doctor's note with the office's contact details, or a note from your dean.

Phones and Laptops: During the classes, every effort must be made not to disturb classmates and cell phones must be both turned off and put out of sight. Any student using a cell phone in any way during class will lose a grade. Laptops are allowed only for note-taking, and any student using the laptop for any other reason, such as surfing the web or going on Facebook, will lose a grade and will no longer be allowed to use it in class. Any student wishing to use a laptop in class ***must sit in the front row of the class***-- I will check up, and if I am dissatisfied with someone's use of the laptop for any reason, they will no longer be permitted to use it.

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 inform the professor as soon as possible, as it will be necessary to use this facility.

Reading Responses: After the first week, the class will be divided into small groups, and each group will be allotted several classes for which they are required to send reading responses by e-

mail to the Professor before 12.00am of the night before the relevant class. Ahead of the class, guiding question(s) will be given for the responses to focus on. This reading-response assignment will be graded as either a pass or a fail each time. In order to attain a pass, it must be submitted before the deadline and constitute a substantial, thoughtful response (one or two sides [300 words], and not just hot air). These responses will be discussed further during the class to which they relate.

Papers: each paper must be typed and submitted in hard copy (e-mailed papers will not be accepted). Each paper must have a cover page and bibliography, which should consist of publications actually used for the paper. Please beware that if you rely on web-sites indiscriminately, you run the risk of using inappropriate non-academic sources, and in consequence attaining poor grades. Read carefully the article on the e-Companion Webliography about using websites, for guidance.

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.

Papers short of the minimum length will receive a grade lowered according to the number of words missing. Late papers without an official Excused Absence will be penalized by one percentile (1 out of 30) per 24 hours, or part of a 24 hour period (starting from the time the relevant hand-in class ends). Papers more than 7 days late will not be graded at all. It is the responsibility of the student handing in a paper late to make sure that it reaches the professor and to obtain confirmation of receipt on the day of its submission. Spelling and grammar will be taken into consideration in grading all papers, which should be typed double-spaced on letter size paper. The Writing Center at Rutgers offers help with writing papers.

Final Grade Constituents:

15% (attendance)
5% (participation in discussions)
5% (answering questions on the readings)
15% (Response Sheets)
30% (Paper One, 1,900-2,300 words)
30% (Paper Two, 1,900-2,300 words)

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

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS (This schedule is tentative and subject to revision as the course proceeds, depending on the discussions raised by the readings. It is essential to find out what the next topic will be if you ever miss a class.)

1/18 Introduction to Course

1/20 Chraibi, Muhammad

Chraibi, pp. 13-41

Rubin, "Prophets and Prophethood," in *Encyclopedia of the Qur'an*

1/25 Chraibi, Muhammad

Chraibi, pp. 41-63

Madigan, "Inspiration and revelation," in *Encyclopedia of the Qur'an*

1/27 Chraibi, Muhammad

Chraibi, pp. 65-90

Friedmann, *Prophecy Continuous*, pp. 83-93.

2/1 Islamic Scripture and mysticism

Halman, "Where two seas meet," pp. 44-68.

Morris, "Situating Islamic mysticism."

2/3 Early Sufi Poetry and Hallaj

Lings, "Mystical Poetry"

Homerin, "Tangled words"

Homerin, *Umar Ibn al-Farid*, pp. 19-37.

<http://www.princeton.edu/~arabic/poetry/> (browse this website, listen, read, watch, compare)

2/8 Hallaj, Diwan

"Hallaj," in *Encyclopaedia Iranica* (<http://www.iranica.com/articles/hallaj-1>)

Ernst translations (samples from draft of forthcoming book.)

2/10 Naser-e Khusraw 1

Schimmel, *Make a shield from wisdom*, pp. 11-43

2/15 Naser-e Khusraw 2

Schimmel, *Make a shield from wisdom*, pp. 44 - 67

2/17 Attar, Divan 1

Avery and Alizadeh, pp. 1-24, 69, 131, 161, 171

De Bruijn, "*The qalandariyyāt* in Persian mystical Poetry."

Ritter, *The Ocean of the Soul*, pp. 502-6.

2/22 Attar, Divan 2

Avery and Alizadeh, pp. 24-28, 30-38, 99, 169, 175

Anvar-Chenderoff, "Without us from us we are safe."

2/24 Attar's Conference of the Birds 1

Attar's *Conference of the Birds*, pp. 9-57

Morris, "Reading the Conference of the Birds."

3/1 Attar's Conference of the Birds 2

Attar's *Conference of the Birds*, pp. 57-124

Ernst, "On losing one's head."

3/3 Attar's Conference of the Birds 3

Attar's *Conference of the Birds*, pp. 124-67

Keshavarz, "Flight of the birds."

3/8 Attar's Conference of the Birds 4

Attar's *Conference of the Birds*, pp. 167-229
Stone, "Blessed perplexity."

3/10 Rumi, *Divan* 1

Aflaki, *The Feats of the Knowers of God*, pp. 61-65.
Keshavarz, *Reading mystical lyric*, pp. 1-12.
Cowan, tr. *Rumi's Divan*, pp. 111, 113-4, 127, 135-6.

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3/22 Rumi, *Divan* 2

Keshavarz, *Reading mystical lyric*, pp. 101-117.
Cowan, tr. *Rumi's Divan*, pp. 67-8, 77-8, 81-3, 123.

*****3/24 (PAPER ONE DUE IN CLASS) Musical Traditions**
finish paper on time!

*****3/29 No Meeting**

3/31 Rumi, *Masnavi* 1

Davis, "Narrative and Doctrine in the First Story of Rumi's *Mathnawi*."
Masnavi Samples 1

4/5 Rumi, *Masnavi* 2

Masnavi Samples 2
Karamustafa, "Speaker, voice and audience."

4/7 Ibn al-Farid 1

Homerin, *Umar Ibn al-Farid*, pp. 7-19, 123-133.

4/12 Ibn al-Farid 2

Chittick, "Ebn ol-Arabi," pp. 6-14
Homerin, *Umar Ibn al-Farid*, pp. 41-65

4/14 Reshad Field, *The Last Barrier*

Chapters 1-3

4/19 Reshad Field, *The Last Barrier*

Chapters 4-6

4/21 Reshad Field, *The Last Barrier*

Chapters 7-9

4/26 Reshad Field, *The Last Barrier*

From Chapter 10 until the end

*****4/28 (PAPER TWO DUE IN CLASS)**

Finish paper on time!
Material to be distributed before class
Contemporary Sufi Poetry in English – Guest: Manav Sachdeva Maasom.