

**SPRING 2013    SUFISM: MYSTICAL ISLAM 840:356:01 (685:356:01)**

**Time and Place:** MW 1.10-2.30pm, Murray Hall, 207, College Ave Campus

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

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 10.30-12.00, at my office, or by appointment.

**Course Description:**

This course provides an introduction to Sufism, from its beginnings until the present day. After considering the first manifestations of Sufism, the theory and practice of the tradition will be examined, largely on the basis of key texts translated into English. The tensions that have emerged in the modern period and the spread of Sufism to Europe and North America will then be considered in historical context, using audio-visual materials as well as texts. Although there is no pre-requisite, anyone new to the academic study of Islam is strongly recommended to read an introduction to Islam (e.g. A. Rippin, *Muslims*) for essential background information.

**Course Requirements:**

Required Textbooks:

1. C. Ernst, *The Shambhala Guide to Sufism*, Random House, 1997 (ISBN: 9781570621802)
2. M. Sells, tr., *Early Islamic Mysticism*, Paulist Press, 1995 (ISBN9780809136193)

**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.

**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.

**Preparation, attendance and participation:** Everybody enrolled is expected to attend classes, having already read the assignment indicated, and to contribute to discussions. In each meeting members of the class will be called on randomly with questions about the readings. 5% of the final grade will depend on the responses given to these questions. Attendance and active and informed participation in discussions (aside from answering the questions on the readings) 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.

**Absence:** Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to your professors. In cases

where students must miss classes for longer than one week, they will always be directed to see a Dean of Students for assistance to help verify these circumstances. 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. If the professor is dissatisfied with someone's use of the laptop, for any reason, they will no longer be permitted to use it.

**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 the final 100) 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.

**Quizzes:** The three quizzes will be based on both the readings and the class discussions that have taken place before them. Quizzes will contain a range of types of questions, from multiple choice to extended responses, and sample questions will be made available beforehand. There will be no chance to make up missed quizzes except for those with an official Excused Absence (see above).

**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.

#### **Final Grade Constituents:**

15% (attendance and participation)  
5% (questions on readings)  
30% (3 quizzes),

20% (Paper One, 1,600-2,000 words),  
30% (take-home exam paper, 2,100-2,500 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**

### 1/23 Introduction to course: What is Sufism?

#### 1/28 What is Islam?

Karamustafa, 'Islam: a civilizational project in progress,' pp. 98-110  
Takim, *The Heirs of the Prophet*, 11-23

#### 1/30 Mysticism in The Qur'an

Ernst, pp. 32-45  
Sells, tr., pp. 29-46

#### 2/4 Qur'an Interpretation

<http://godlas.myweb.uga.edu/ruzguide.html>  
Sells, pp. 75-89  
Calder et al., *Classical Islam*, pp. 163-167, 171-5

#### 2/6 Prophethood and Muhammad

Ernst, pp. 45-57  
Sells, tr., pp. 47-56

#### 2/11 Friendship with God

Ernst, pp. 58-80  
Radtke, "al-Tirmidhi on Walaya," pp. 483-96

#### 2/13 Early Renunciants

Karamustafa, *Sufism*, pp. 1-7  
Sells, pp. 151-70

#### 2/18 The Sufis of Baghdad

Karamustafa, *Sufism*, pp. 7-37  
Calder et al., pp. 303-306, 322-326

2/20 Hallaj

“Hallaj,” in *Encyclopaedia Iranica*  
Sells, tr., pp. 266-80, 302-3

**\*\*\*2/25 QUIZ 1**

Quiz Preparation

2/27 Mystics of Persia and Central Asia

Karamustafa, *Sufism* pp. 43-55  
Al-Sulami, *The Way of Sufi Chivalry*, pp. 80-93  
Hujwiri, *Kashf al-mahjub*, p. 62-9

3/4 Sufism for Ulama

Karamustafa, *Sufism*, pp. 87-113  
Sells, tr., pp. 225-31  
Calder et.al., *Classical Islam*, pp. 299-302, 307-310

3/6 Zikr Remembrance

Ernst, pp. 81-98  
Suhrawardi, *Dervish Textbook*, pp. 160-8

3/11 Sama`

Ernst, pp. 179-98  
During, “What is Sufi Music?” pp. 277-87  
Suhrawardi, *Dervish Textbook*, pp. 29-37

**\*\*\*3/13 NO MEETING: PAPER ONE TO BE SUBMITTED BY 4PM AT LOREE,  
RM 140**

-----SPRING BREAK

3/25 Masters and Disciples

Ernst, pp. 120-46  
Suhrawardi, *Dervish Textbook*, pp. 14-23

3/27 Antinomian Sufis

Karamustafa, *God's unruly friends*, 1-49

4/1 Sufi Poetry

Ernst, pp. 147-78

Calder et. al., pp. 352-355

**\*\*\*4/3 QUIZ 2**

Quiz Preparation

4/8 Rumi 1

Keshavarz, *Reading mystical lyric*, pp. 1-12

Rumi's Ghazals, tr. Arberry, Selection

4/10 Rumi 2

Masnavi Translations

4/15 Ibn al-Arabi 1

Chittick, "Ebn ol-Arabi" pp. 6-14

Calder et. al., pp. 327-333

4/17 Ibn al-Arabi 2

Ibn al-Arabi, *Fusus al-hikam*, Chapter on Adam

Nettler, *Sufi Metaphysics*, pp. 17-24

4/22 Sufism in the Modern Muslim World

Ernst, pp. 199-220

Sirriyeh, *Sufis and Anti-Sufis*, pp. 86-111

4/24 Sufism as a contemporary Muslim alternative

Abd al-Malik, *Sufi Rapper*, pp. 57-119

4/29 Sufism in the Non-Muslim World

Hermansen, "In the Garden of American Sufi Movements," pp. 155-78

R. Feild, *The Last Barrier*, pp. 108-121, 141-155.

**\*\*\*5/1 FINAL PAPER DUE IN CLASS; Contemporary Issues**

**\*\*\*5/6 QUIZ 3**  
Quiz Preparation