

SPRING 2016

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

Time and Place: Tuesdays, 11:30–2:30, with a twenty-minute break half-way, at the Language Labs, Room 104, New Brunswick and Dana Library, Room 214a, Newark.

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

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1.30-3:30, 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 an in-depth understanding of Islamic spirituality and Persian literature. 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.

Readings: The specific readings for each week will be available on the Sakai shell for this course.

Sakai: Everyone needs to log in to the Sakai site for this course, at sakai.rutgers.edu . If anybody has problems with accessing Sakai they should write to sakai@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, 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, by Sunday 11:55pm each graduate student is to post on Sakai a one-page (300 + word) reaction paper on the reading, while each undergraduate students is required to do this for their choice of at least 10 weeks in total. These will serve as the basis for our class discussions. The first paragraph should summarize what you see as the most important points discussed in the readings and the last paragraph should raise further issues and questions about their broader significance in preparation for discussion. 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>

Graduate students are required not only to write their own reaction papers, but also to begin the responses to them in class and attempt to answer the questions. The discussion will continue with the involvement of all other class members.

Research Paper: The final version of the research paper is to be submitted during the final class of the semester April 26th. 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 Tuesday March 8th. A first draft of this essay of at least 3,200 words of the total length for undergraduates and 4,800 words of the total length for graduates, is due at the beginning of class on Tuesday March 29th ready for peer-review during the first period of that double-period meeting. The instructor is also prepared to review individual papers submitted to him before April 15th.

Late papers (proposal, peer-review 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 April 26th and also uploaded to Sakai for plagiarism scanning before midnight on April 26th.

Final Grade Constituents:

30% participation,
30% Reaction papers,
40% 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.

Student-Wellness Services:

Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/

www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and

workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 /

www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

Course Outline and Reading Assignments

(Since this is a seminar course, this may be adapted according to the needs and interests of class members on particular topics).

1/19 Intro

1/26 Situating Rumi's Sufism and Poetry

Sedgwick, *Sufism: The Essentials*, pp. 5-17

Karamustafa, *Sufism: The Formative Period*, pp.1-15 (The scan has more pages than needed)

Calder et al., eds and trs, *Classical Islam*, pp. 163-7, 171-5, 299-303

2/2 Life and Works

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

Aflaki, *The Feats of the Knowers of God*, selections

Lewis, *Rumi, past, present, East and West*, pp. 242-68, 128-33

Graduate Students Only: Lewis, *Rumi, past, present, East and West*, pp. 166-200

2/9 Rubaiyat and Ghazals 1

De Bruijn, *Persian Sufi Poetry*, pp. 6-19 (notes pp. 26-27), 51-83

20 quatrains from Omar Khayyam, *The Ruba'iyyat*

(<http://classics.mit.edu/Khayyam/rubaiyat.html>)

Lewis, pp. 391-93 (poems marked DR)

2/16 Rubaiyat and Ghazals 2

Hafez ghazals selection (tr. Mojaddedi)

Rumi's ghazals, Selection

Keshavarz, *Reading Mystical lyric*, pp. 72-117

Graduate Students Only: Keshavarz, *Reading Mystical lyric*, pp. 118-137

2/23 Fihe ma fihe 1

Rumi, *Signs of the Unseen*, Discourses 21, 22, 23, 29, 42, 44

Mojaddedi, *Beyond Dogma*, Chapter One

Graduate Students Only: Rumi, *Signs of the Unseen*, Discourse 44

3/1 Fihe ma fihe 2

Rumi, *Signs of the Unseen*, Discourses 3, 8, 28, 34, 38, 39

Rumi's 'Moses and Shepherd' from *The Masnavi: Book Two*

3/8 Fihe ma fihe 3 *Paper Title and Abstract Deadline

Rumi, *Signs of the Unseen*, Discourses 10, 11, 15, 16, 24, 31, 45 63
Mojaddedi, *Beyond Dogma*, Chapter Two

Graduate Students Only: Rumi, *Signs of the Unseen*, Discourse 11

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

3/22 Introduction to *Masnavi* poetry; The *Masnavi*

De Bruijn, *Persian Sufi Poetry*, pp. 84-113
The Masnavi: Book One, pp. 3-23
Attar, *Conference of the birds*, p. 66-86

Graduate Students Only – Mojaddedi, “the Ebb and Flow”

***3/29 The Masnavi (Peer-review Draft of Paper)**

The Masnavi: Book One, pp. 97-137
Karamustafa, “Speaker, Voice and Audience in the Koran and the Mathnawi,” pp. 33-42

4/5 The Masnavi 2: “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

4/12 The Masnavi 3: Oneness and Union

Chittick, “Rūmī and *Waḥdat al-wujūd*,” pp. 70-111
The Masnavi, Bk. 1, pp. 185-97, 227-43
The Masnavi, Bk. 3, pp. 223-238

4/19 The Masnavi 4: *sama`*

Avery, *Psychology of Early Sufi Sama*, pp. 10-54
The Masnavi, Bk. 1, pp. 119-37
The Masnavi, Bk. 3, pp. 256-60

4/26 Mevlevi Order and Rumi Today (* research paper due in class)

Lewis, *Rumi, past, present, East and West*, pp. 458-66

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

Graduate Students Only: Betul Cihan, Chp 3 of Dissertation.