

## Philosophy 208 Introduction to Islamic Philosophy

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Office Hours: Monday 930 - 1020 hrs, Thursday 1130 - 1220 hrs. and by appointment.

**Texts:** (1) texts are available on-line without charge (see URLs listed below)

(2) good reference texts are:

- Fakhry M. *A History of Islamic Philosophy*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.(Columbia University Press)
- Sharif MM. *A History of Muslim Philosophy* (Pakistan Philosophy congress), available online free at <http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/hmp/index.html>

(3) The instructor's own lecture notes may be available on Moodle after the completion of each section.

### Formal Course Requirements and Grading Procedures

Two examinations: a mid-term examination worth 25 % of the course grade, a final examination worth 50% of the course grade and a short term paper (topic to be announced at the end of the second week of lectures or arranged in consultation with the instructor) worth 25% of the course grade.

### Significant dates:

- mid-term examination: October 20
- final examination: scheduled by the university
- term paper: December 1 (electronically handed in)

The dates for lectures are approximate since the amount of time spent on each person or group of persons depends on the familiarity of students with the philosophical background of the students (especially in Greek and neo-Platonic philosophy) and the need to fill in any lacunae in their knowledge. The mid-term examination will be returned as soon as it is graded. Final examinations are the property of the University and will not be returned. They are available for viewing at the Records Office at a time designated by the University. Term papers may be picked up from the instructor's office one working week after December 1.

Exceptions from course requirements, adjustments for taking examinations at set examination dates, etc. will only be made in accordance with UVic regulations as published in the Calendar. It is the responsibility of the student to acquaint themselves with this fact.

### Grading

Marks will be assigned on a letter basis and may be converted to a percentile grade as follows:

F = 0-49; D = 50-59; C = 60-64; C+ =65-69; B- =70-72; B = 73-76; B+ = 77-79; A- = 80-84; A = 85-89; A+ = 90-100.

## Inappropriate behaviour and contraventions of academic integrity

Inappropriate behaviour and violations of standards of academic integrity as defined in the University Calendar will be dealt with in accordance with University Regulations.

### Tentative Outline of Lectures

- 1. Introduction:** app. Sept. 4 - 8
- A brief introduction to the Islam
  - A brief introduction to the history of Islamic culture & expansion
- 2. Philosophical background of Islamic philosophical speculation** app. Sept. 11- 22
- a. Plato
    - *Republic, Theaetetus*
  - b. Aristotle
    - *de Anima, Metaphysics, Nicomachean Ethics*
  - c. neo-Platonism
    - Plotinus, *Enneads*, available online at <http://www.aren.org/prison/documents/religion/Religion/The%20Six%20Enneads.pdf>
  - (d. Nestorians as transmitters)
- 3. Mu'tazilah** (9<sup>th</sup> century) app. Sept. 22 - 25
- a. The nature of God and of the Divine Attributes
  - b. The status of the Qur'an
  - c. Ethical objectivism
- 4. Al-Kindi** ((c. 801–873 CE), app. Sept. 25 - 29
- *On First Philosophy* available at <http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/books/kindi-met.pdf>
  - a. scientific achievements
  - b. metaphysics
- 5. The Brethren of Purity (Ikhwan al-Safa')** (10<sup>th</sup> century) app. Oct. 2
- brief synopsis by O. Farrukh, available at <http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/hmp/18.htm>
  - a. Philosophical doctrines, an outline available at <http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/ip/rep/H051.htm>
  - b. Influence
- 6. Ash'arites** (10<sup>th</sup> century) app. Oct. 6 - 9
- article available at <http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/hmp/14.htm>
  - a. The nature of God and of the Divine Attributes
  - b. The status of the Qur'an

- c. Atomic nature of space and time
- c. Ethics

### Mid-term examination: October 16

- 7. Al-Farabi ("Second Teacher" ) (~872 - ~ 950)** app. Oct. 20
- *Social Psychology*
  - *The Ideas of the Citizens of the Virtuous City* (response to Plato)
  - *Categories of Science* (response to Aristotle)
  - *The Philosophy of Plato and Aristotle* available at <http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/books/farabi-pl-aris.pdf>
- a. logic (response to Aristotle)
    - non-Aristotelian, future contingents
  - b. neoplatonism
  - c. sufism and philosophy
- 8. Ibn Sina (Avicenna) (~950 - 1037)** app. Oct. 23 - Nov. 3
- *Logic* available at <http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/books/dansh.pdf>
  - *Remarks and Admonitions* available at <http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/books/inati1.pdf>
- a. metaphysics
  - b. cosmology
  - c. human beings
  - d. arguments for the existence of God
- 9. Omar Khayyam (1048-1122)** app. Nov. 6
- a. *the Rubaiyat*, available at <http://www.library.cornell.edu/colldev/mideast/okhym.htm>
- 10. Al-Ghazali (Algazel) (1058 - 111)** app. Nov. 10 - 13
- *Tahafut al-falasifah* available at <http://www.ghazali.org/works/taf-eng.pdf>
  - *The Mysteries of the Human Soul* available at <http://www.ghazali.org/works/soul.htm>
  - *The Deliverance from Error* available at [http://www.witness-pioneer.org/vil/Books/AG\\_MHS/ch01.htm#c1a](http://www.witness-pioneer.org/vil/Books/AG_MHS/ch01.htm#c1a)
  - *The Deliverance from Error* available at <http://www.ghazali.org/books/md/IIA-02main.htm> and at <http://www.ghazali.org/works/watt3.htm>
- a. Certainty and Error
  - b. Attack on philosophers
- 11. Ibn Tufail (1105 - 1185)** app. Nov. 17
- *On the Improvement of Human Reason: The history of Hayy Ibn Yaqzan* available at <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/16831/16831-h/20018-h.htm>
- a. nature of human beings
- 12. Ibn Rushd (Averroës) (1126 - 1198)** app. Nov. 20 - 24
- *On the Incoherence of the Incoherence* available at

<http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/ir/tt/index.html>

- *Decisive Treatise on the Harmony of Religion and Philosophy* available at

<http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/ir/fasl.htm>

- *Treatise on Metaphysics Book lambda* available at

<http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/books/ir-meta.pdf>

a. Philosophy and religion

b. God

c. Human beings

- *Al-massir*: award winning movie about Ibn Rushd, available in YouTube at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrWutNFBSG4>

### 13. Sufism

app. Nov. 27

a. Ibn Arabi (1165 - 1240)

<http://www.livingislam.org/i/index.html>

B. Rumi (1207 - 1273)

<http://www.rumionfire.com/shams/index.htm>

A selection of translation from Rumi is available on the Mevlevi Order's website at

<http://www.dar-al-masnavi.org/divan.html>

### 14. Review

app. Dec. 1