

Carleton University
College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI 4851B/5851W
Islamic Cosmology
Winter 2013

Instructor Information

Professor Mohammed Rustom
Office Hours: Monday, 12:00-1:00
Office Location: 2A61 Paterson Hall
E-mail: mrustom@connect.carleton.ca

Course Information

Class Meetings: Friday, 8:35-11:25
Classroom Location: 2A46 Paterson Hall
Course Website: Accessible through Carleton WebCT

Course Description

This course offers an in-depth exploration of Islamic cosmological doctrines. Through close engagement with the work of both pre-modern and contemporary scholars, we will work to gain a better understanding of how the theoretical concerns of Islamic cosmology relate to such issues of global concern as the environmental crisis, animal rights, the nature of education and learning, and the relationship between religion and secularism.

Course Texts

Chittick, *In Search of the Lost Heart*
Dante, *The Divine Comedy* (optional)
Nasr, *An Introduction to Islamic Cosmological Doctrines*
Ikhwan al-Safa', *The Case of the Animals versus Man Before the King of the Jinn*

Requirements and Due Dates

/40	Weekly Reflective Pieces	Beginning of every class, starting with second class
/20	Presentation	March 22 nd or April 5 th
/40	Paper	April 5 th

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

- Jan. 11th** *What is Islamic Cosmology?*
Readings: Chittick, *In Search of the Lost Heart*, ch. 1
- Jan. 18th** *Philosophy and Interpretation*
Readings: Chittick, *In Search of the Lost Heart*, chs. 7, 17, 22 (18-19 optional)
- Jan. 25th** *Cosmos and Consciousness*
Readings: Chittick, *In Search of the Lost Heart*, chs. 13, 15 and 21 (11 optional)
- Feb. 1st** *The Body and the Practical Life*
Readings: Chittick, *In Search of the Lost Heart*, chs. 2-3, 14 (16 optional)
- Feb. 8th** *Eschatology*
Readings: Chittick, *In Search of the Lost Heart*, ch. 20
- Feb. 15th** *War and Peace*
Readings: Chittick, *In Search of the Lost Heart*, ch. 12, 23
- Feb 22nd** **Reading Week**
- Mar. 1st** *Cosmos and Environment*
Readings: Chittick, *In Search of the Lost Heart*, ch. 24
- Mar. 8th** *Education and Learning*
Readings: Chittick, *In Search of the Lost Heart*, chs. 10 and 26
- Mar. 15th** *The “Other”*
Readings: Chittick, *In Search of the Lost Heart*, chs. 5 and 25
- Mar. 22nd** **Class Presentations**
- Mar. 29th** **No Class**
- Apr. 5th** **Class Presentations cont’d.**

Weekly Reflective Pieces

Assignment

At the beginning of every class hand in a two-page reflective piece of the reading(s) from William Chittick's *In Search of the Lost Heart* which have been assigned for that day. The first page will offer a general summary of the text(s) studied, and the second will offer an analysis of the author's arguments in these texts. This assignment is designed to provide you with an opportunity to think critically about this important book. It will also help you hone your academic writings skills. Moreover, close study of this work will prove to be very beneficial in preparing for your presentation and paper.

Method of Evaluation

There are eight pieces, each of which is worth 5% of the total course mark. They are therefore collectively worth 40% of the total course mark. For a good grade, you have to (1) follow the format guidelines to a tee; (2) offer an effective summary of the texts in question; and, most importantly, (3) demonstrate to me, through your analysis of the work, that you have given considerable thought to the issue(s) raised by the author.

Due Date

Your weekly reflective pieces are due at the **beginning of each class**, starting with our second meeting on **January 18th, 2013**, and ending with our ninth meeting on **March 15th, 2013**. **Emailed versions of the assignment are not acceptable.**

Penalties

Pieces not handed in on their respective due dates will receive a mark of zero. Absolutely no exceptions will be made to this rule. Pieces submitted late due to a medical or other compassionate reason must be accompanied by relevant documentation (i.e., a medical certificate, etc.). Plagiarized pieces will be assigned a **zero**, and the issue will be taken up with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Format Guidelines

1. **For both undergraduate and graduate students**, each piece should be 2 **full** pages in length, **double spaced**, and written in **Times New Roman** font (**size 12**). It must use the normal page layout which comes standard on all Word programs, and page numbers must be on the bottom right corner of the page.
2. Diction is to be formal, and each piece is to be written in Canadian English. Grammar, syntax, spelling, and style must be impeccable. You may write in the first person.

3. At the top right of the first page of your report, include the course code, your full name, and the assignment's due date. This should be in **Times New Roman font (size 12)**.

At the top left of the first page of your report, include the main title of the book in italics, **Times New Roman font (size 12)**.

4. All paragraphs—except the first paragraph of your piece—must be indented. **Every paragraph of the paper—including isolated quotations—must be justified**. This can easily be done by using the “paragraph” function on your Word program.
5. There are to be no title pages, footnotes, endnotes, or bibliographies. If you want to directly cite the book in your report, provide the passage in quotation marks, and then, in brackets directly following the quoted passage, include the page number, preceded by a “p.” For example, (p. 29).
6. If you cite from the book, do not put your quotations in italics, bold, or a combination of the two. Sentences which are more than 3 lines long are to be isolated, **single spaced**, and reduced to **font size 11** with their margins indented to 1 inch on both the right and left. This can easily be done by using the “paragraph” function on your Word program.

Paper and Presentation Guidelines

Instructions

1. Carefully read the Ikhwan al-Safa's *The Case of the Animals versus Man Before the King of the Jinn*. The text comes with the translators' introduction and notes. These should be consulted in order to better-understand the book's content.
2. After you have read this work, write an essay on any topic raised in this book which is of particular interest to you. Be sure to consult with the Professor before proceeding with your research.
3. Your paper and presentation should only be based upon this text.

Presentations

For both undergraduate and graduate students, presentations will be 20 minutes long, and will aim to explain the scope and content of your essay in any fashion you deem suitable. Presentations will be graded out of 20, and are worth 20% of the total course mark. Presentations will be held over the course of our last two meetings (March 22nd and April 5th, 2013). During our fourth meeting, a sign-up sheet will be distributed in class in order to determine the order of presentations.

Penalties

Presentations not given on their respective due dates will receive a mark of zero. Absolutely no exceptions will be made to this rule. Delays in presenting due to medical or other compassionate reasons must be accompanied by relevant documentation (i.e., medical certificates, etc.).

Papers

Essays are graded out of 40, and are worth 40% of the total course mark. Each essay will be evaluated in terms of (1) the clarity of its thesis, (2) the coherence of its argument(s), (3) thoughtful reflection on the subject matter, and (4) faithful adherence to the content and formatting guidelines mentioned below.

Content

The paper must have a clear thesis which is defended consistently throughout. An essay without a thesis cannot receive more than a C+. A thesis essentially summarizes, in one or several sentences, the entire point of your essay. It is simply not enough to say "I am going to talk about x, y, and z"; you must be more specific than that. A good thesis should be concise and straightforward, and must endeavour to prove a point: "In this essay, I am going to demonstrate that x because of y and z." You may not use the wording of this example in your essay.

Due Date

Essays are due at the **beginning of class on April 5th, 2013**. **Emailed versions of the essay are not acceptable.**

Penalties

Essays not handed in on the due date will receive a mark of zero. Absolutely no exceptions will be made to this rule. Papers submitted late due to a medical or other compassionate reason must be accompanied by relevant documentation (i.e., a medical certificate, etc.). Plagiarized essays will be assigned a **zero**, and the issue will be taken up with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Form

1. **If you are an undergraduate student**, your essay should be **15 full** pages in length (**excluding the title page and bibliography**). **If you are a graduate student**, your essay should be **20 full pages** in length (**excluding the title page and bibliography**). Essays are to be **double spaced**, and written in **Times New Roman** font (**size 12**). It must use the normal page layout which comes standard on all Word programs.
2. Diction is to be formal, and the essay is to be written in Canadian English. Grammar, syntax, spelling, and style must be impeccable. You may write in the first person.
3. All paragraphs—except the first paragraph of your essay—must be indented. **Every paragraph in your essay—including isolated quotations and footnotes—must be justified**. This can easily be done by using the “paragraph” function on your Word program.
4. Use footnotes as opposed to endnotes and/or internal citations. Footnotes are to be **single spaced** and written in **Times New Roman** font (**size 10**). A bibliography must be appended to the essay. Your method of citation **must** follow the rules laid out in the *Chicago Manual of Style*.
5. If citing from the Qur’an, an internal citation as follows will suffice: Q 18:5 (i.e., Qur’an, chapter 18, verse 5). In your bibliography, indicate which translation of the Qur’an you used **under the name of the translator**.
6. Do not put your quotations in italics, bold, or a combination of the two. Sentences which are more than 3 lines long are to be isolated, **single spaced**, and reduced to **font size 11** with their margins indented to 1 inch on both the right and left. This can easily be done by using the “paragraph” function on your Word program.
7. Your essay must have a title page. All pages—excluding the title page and bibliography—are to be numbered at the bottom right corner of the page.

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
FND	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 3, 2012**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 10, 2013**.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please [contact](#) the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library