**Carleton University 2022–2023**

**Department of Philosophy**

**PHIL 3010A Winter Term**

**Global Philosophical Traditions:**

**Islamic Philosophy**

**Instructor**: Professor Mohammed Rustom

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*\* Emails are to be professional and free of solecisms*

**Office**: PA 2A61, 520-2600, ext. 1954

**Office hours**: Mondays, 12:00-2:00 pm

**Lectures**: MB 3356; Mondays, 2:25-5:35 pm

**Course Description**

This course will begin with an inquiry into what “philosophy” means in various civilizations and to large sectors of humanity beyond the Anglo-American and European worlds. We will then seek to highlight the depth, diversity, and creativity of one major non-Western philosophical tradition, namely Islamic philosophy. Areas covered include the nature of being and consciousness, cosmology, self-knowledge, philosophy of language, the cultivation of virtue, selfhood, death, and freedom.

**Learning Objectives**

*By the completion of this course, students will*:

* Have a broader conception of philosophy and epistemic diversity
* Be able to engage with a major non-Western philosophical text in translation
* Understand the worldview of Islamic philosophy and its attendant problems

**Required Texts**

Van Norden, *Taking Back Philosophy* = *TBP*

Chittick, *The Heart of Islamic Philosophy* = *HIP* (course site)

**Requirements and Due Dates**

/25 Assignment 1

/30 Assignment 2

/35 Assignment 3

/10 Active Participation

**Schedule of Lectures and Readings**

**Jan. 9 What is Islamic Philosophy?**

Readings

*HIP*, 29-34; 69-74; *TBP*, foreword (Garfield) and chapter 1

**Jan. 16 Metaphysics**

Readings

*HIP*, 34-45; 90-97; *TBP*, chapters 2-3

**Jan. 23 Cosmology**

Readings

*HIP*, 45-61; *TBP*, chapters 4-5

**Jan. 30 Anthropology**

Readings

*HIP*, 61-67

**Feb. 6 Psychology**

Readings

*HIP*, 74-90

**Feb. 13 The Pursuit of Wisdom**

Readings

*Essay on Disengagement and Struggle* (*HIP*, 128-129)

*The Testament of the Sages* (*HIP*, 131-132)

*Advice to Seekers of Wisdom* (*HIP*, 133-134)

**Feb. 20 Reading week; no class**

**Feb. 27 Theoretical Perfection**

Readings

*Essay on Salvation* (*HIP*, 135-137)

*Quatrains* (*HIP*, 143)

**Mar. 6 Intelligence and Deliverance**

Readings

*Essay on Intellect* (*HIP*, 170)

*Security from the Soul’s Nullification* (*HIP*, 170-174)

**Mar. 13 Self-Recognition**

Readings

*The Book of the Everlasting* (*HIP*, 202-212)

**Mar. 20**  **Self-Awareness**

Readings

*The Book of the Road’s End* (*HIP*, 279-281)

**Mar. 27 Death and Dying**

Readings

*The Book of the Everlasting* (*HIP*, 224-233)

**Apr. 3**  **Liberation**

Readings

*The Rungs of Perfection* (*HIP*, 262-267)

**Apr. 10 Course Wrap-up**

Readings

*The Book of the Road’s End* (*HIP*, 128-129)

**Assignment 1**

**Instructions**

Carefully read Bryan Van Norden’s book, *Taking Back Philosophy*. The first part of the paper must thoroughly summarize the book’s content (but not chapter-by-chapter). The second part must offer an analysis of the author’s underlying argument.

**Value**

The paper is out of 25, and is worth 25% of the total course mark.

**Due Date**

Papers are due at the beginning of class on **February 6th**.

**Late Assignments**

Papers submitted late due to medical or other compassionate reasons must be accompanied by relevant documentation (i.e., a medical certificate, etc.).

**Form**

1. Your paper should be **six** full pages in length, double spaced, and written in Times New Roman font (size 12).
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 paper, include the course code, your full name, and the assignment’s due date. This should be in Times New Roman font (size 12).
4. When citing materials, provide the passages in quotation marks, and then, in brackets directly following the quoted passage, include the page number, preceded by a “p.”

**Assignment 2**

**Instructions**

Offer a thorough summary of *The Testament of the Sages*. Then, explain whether or not the path to wisdom laid out in this text is a cogent one.

**Value**

The paper is out of 30, and is worth 30% of the total course mark.

**Due Date**

Papers are due at the beginning of class on **March 13th**.

**Late Assignments**

Papers submitted late due to medical or other compassionate reasons must be accompanied by relevant documentation (i.e., a medical certificate, etc.).

**Form**

1. Your paper should be **eight** full pages in length, double spaced, and written in Times New Roman font (size 12).
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 paper, include the course code, your full name, and the assignment’s due date. This should be in Times New Roman font (size 12).
4. When citing materials, provide the passages in quotation marks, and then, in brackets directly following the quoted passage, include the page number, preceded by a “p.”

**Assignment 3**

**Instructions**

With reference to the assigned texts in *HIP*, what, according to Islamic philosophy, is self-knowledge?

**Value**

The paper is out of 35, and is worth 35% of the total course mark.

**Due Date**

Papers are due at the beginning of class on **April 10th**.

**Late Assignments**

Papers submitted late due to medical or other compassionate reasons must be accompanied by relevant documentation (i.e., a medical certificate, etc.).

**Form**

1. Your paper should be **ten** full pages in length, double spaced, and written in Times New Roman font (size 12).
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 paper, include the course code, your full name, and the assignment’s due date. This should be in Times New Roman font (size 12).
4. When citing materials, provide the passages in quotation marks, and then, in brackets directly following the quoted passage, include the page number, preceded by a “p.”