

The College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI 3840A/Philosophy: PHIL 3010A
Fall Term

Rumi and the Way of Love

Instructor: Professor Mohammed Rustom

TA: TBA

Office hours: By appointment

Note: Please send course-related emails to mohammed.rustom@carleton.ca. I will endeavour to reply to inquiries within twenty-four hours of receipt. Emails should be professional and free of solecisms.

Course Description

The Muslim mystic, philosopher, and poet Jalal al-Din Rumi is widely recognized as one of greatest love poets of human civilization. In this course we will attempt to understand why that is the case. We will do so by engaging in an in-depth examination of Rumi's teachings on love, cosmology, use of symbolism, metaphysics, spiritual psychology, and poetic art through a detailed study of his writings (in translation), situating them in their appropriate religious, historical, and cultural contexts.

Learning Objectives

By the completion of this course, students will:

- ❖ Recognize different modes and styles of textual interpretation
- ❖ Come away with a broader, non-Eurocentric conception of religion and philosophy
- ❖ Become acquainted with the fields of Islamic philosophy and Persian Sufi literature

Required Text

Chittick, *The Sufi Path of Love* (bookstore)

Requirements

- /25 Assignment 1 (Due: Oct. 10)
- /35 Assignment 2 (Due: Nov. 7)
- /40 Assignment 3 (Due: Dec. 5)

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Sept. 12	Who is Rumi? <u>Listen (Recitations from Rumi's Poetry)</u> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uP9FWA1_Xrw https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQQIEUDe6Qo https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjggJH45RRE <u>Readings</u> Chittick, pp. 1–16
Sept. 19	The Nature of Reality <u>Readings</u> Chittick, pp. 19–26
Sept. 26	Rumi and the Renewal of Life <u>Listen</u> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFj8lIENAFo
Oct. 3	Spiritual Psychology <u>Readings</u> Chittick, pp. 27–41
Oct. 10	God <u>Readings</u> Chittick, pp. 42–60
Oct. 17	Humans <u>Readings</u> Chittick, pp. 61–147
Oct. 24	Fall Break; No Class
Oct. 31	Traveling the Path <u>Readings</u> Chittick, pp. 148–193
Nov. 7	The Way of Love Separation and Union <u>Readings</u> Chittick, pp. 194–247
Nov. 14	Imagination and Poetry <u>Readings</u>

Chittick, pp. 248–285

Nov. 21 The Beloved

Readings

Chittick, pp. 286–310

**Nov. 28 The Wine of Love
The Beloved's Beloved**

Readings

Chittick, pp. 311–349

Dec. 5 Course Wrap-up

Assignment 1

Instructions

Offer a careful reading of pp. 19-41 of *The Sufi Path of Love* with a particular eye on addressing this question: What is Rumi's conception of the nature of reality and human selfhood? Your paper should combine careful citations from Rumi's poetry alongside your analysis of his arguments with respect to their form and coherence.

Value

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

Due Date

Papers are due via email submission on **October 10th**.

Late Assignments

Papers submitted late due to medical or other compassionate reasons must be accompanied by relevant documentation.

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, please follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

Assignment 2

Instructions

Offer a careful reading of pp. 109-193 of *The Sufi Path of Love* with a particular eye on answering this question: What, for Rumi, is the relationship between spiritual guidance and human effort along the Sufi path? Your paper should combine careful citations from

Rumi's poetry alongside your analysis of his arguments with respect to their form and coherence.

Value

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

Due Date

Papers are due via email submission on **November 7th**.

Late Assignments

Papers submitted late due to medical or other compassionate reasons must be accompanied by relevant documentation.

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, please follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

Assignment 3

Instructions

Offer a careful reading of pp. 194-349 of *The Sufi Path of Love* with a particular eye on explaining Rumi's understanding of love and why imagination and beauty are so intimately connected to it. Your paper should combine careful citations from Rumi's poetry alongside your analysis of his arguments with respect to their form and coherence.

Value

The paper is out of 40, and is worth 40% of the total course mark.

Due Date

Papers are due via email submission on **December 5th**.

Late Assignments

Papers submitted late due to medical or other compassionate reasons must be accompanied by relevant documentation.

Form

5. Your paper should be **ten** full pages in length, double spaced, and written in Times New Roman font (size 12).
6. 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.
7. 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).
8. When citing materials, please follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*.