

RELI2350 B – Winter 2020

Classical Islamic Thought

Meeting: Monday, 8:35 AM - 11:25 AM
St. Patrick's Building 303

Instructor: Dr. Mourad Laabdi

Email: mourad.laabdi@carleton.ca

Office: 2A61 Paterson Hall

Office Hours: Monday, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM.

Office Phone: 613-520-2600, extension 1991

Course Description

This course explores the developments and contributions of the main schools of Islamic thought between the 8th and 18th centuries CE. It is designed with two main objectives in sight. The first is to equip students with deeper knowledge of the key ideas and debates that shaped the Islamic intellectual tradition from within and its relationship with other intellectual traditions. The second is to expose them to the place of “reason” in classical Islamic thought and the ways in which Muslim scholars managed to reconcile rational and traditional modes of knowledge. These areas will be examined within their historical contexts and across various disciplines, including the Qur’an and Hadith exegesis, law and legal theory, philosophy, theology, mysticism, among others.

Course Evaluation

Reading Reflections.....	20%	(10 x 2%)
Midterm Test	20%	Feb. 10.
Book Report (two components)	30%	Feb. 24 and Mar. 9
Take-Home Essay (two components)	30%	Mar. 23 and Apr. 25

Required Readings

Abdullah Saeed, *Islamic Thought: An Introduction*, (London and New York: Routledge, 2006). E-book available free of charge through Carleton library.

John Walbridge, *God and Logic in Islam: The Caliphate of Reason*, (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011). Available for purchase at Carleton’s Bookstore.

Ibn Tufayl, *Hayy Ibn Yaqzan: A Philosophical Tale*, Trans. Lenn Goodman, (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 2009). Available for purchase at Carleton’s Bookstore.

All other assigned readings will be made available on cuLearn.

Please, do not skim this syllabus!

Failing to meet a course requirement as a result of not attending to the syllabus will not be accepted as an excuse. No accommodations will be granted in such cases.

Missing four (4) classes in total will cause the absentee to fail this course. Attendance is essential and will be recorded through your weekly reading reflections and other means.

Missing the first week or two of classes due to late registration is the student's sole responsibility. Except in justifiable cases, making up the missed first reflections will not be allowed.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Review, interpret, present and evaluate various arguments, assumptions and concepts related to classical Islamic thought and its academic study.
- Distinguish between different intellectual disciplines and genres of classical Islamic texts.
- Ground various Muslim intellectual debates in their historical contexts and establish their relevance for key contemporary questions.
- Express information, arguments and analyses accurately and with clarity in writing.
- Demonstrate competence in library research and building a bibliography.

Important Dates and Deadlines

Jan. 31:	Last day to withdraw from this course with a full fee adjustment
Feb. 10:	Midterm Exam
Feb. 17-21:	Winter break. No classes.
Feb. 24:	Book Report Due
Mar. 9:	Self-Review Due
Mar. 23:	Introduction/Bibliography Due
Apr. 25:	Last day to submit the Take-Home Essay.

Course Requirements

1. Reading, Attendance, Notetaking:

As a student in this course, you are responsible for studying on your own and before coming to class all assigned materials. As you read, identify the goal of the authors, who they are responding to, how they develop their thesis, what evidence they provide to sustain it, and if their narrative agrees or conflicts with what you know about the topic, etc. Reading is your first step toward doing well in this course.

This course fuses lecture and discussion-based styles, and a good deal of class activity requires attendance. Attendance will be taken through your weekly reflections. Attending regularly has several benefits besides that it is the only way you can hand in your reflections. It will also allow you to enjoy interesting films, participate in vivid group discussions, voice your concerns and opinions, stay informed of the latest updates, and especially to take lecture notes since they will not be provided by the instructor in any form.

2. Reading Reflections (20%)

Students will write 10 weekly reading reflections. See “Lecture Schedule” below for exempt weeks. Each reflection is worth 2% of your grade, covers all assigned readings per week, must be typed, printed out and handed in person in class. For more details, see “Reading Reflections Guidelines” on cuLearn.

3. Mid-Term Test (20%)

The mid-term will be **written in class on February 10**, Exam questions are based mainly in lecture materials and readings covered in class. See “Midterm Guide” on cuLearn for details.

4. Book Report (30%)

This assignment consists of two stages. Everything you need to know about it can be found in the “Book Report Guidelines” posted on cuLearn. In a nutshell:

Stage one (25%):

Write a report on: Ibn Tufayl, *Hayy Ibn Yaqzan: A Philosophical Tale*, Trans. Lenn Goodman, (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 2009). The report is a little more than a mere summary, so make sure you understand well the main task and all requirements. Book reports are **due on cuLearn by February 24**.

Stage Two: Self-Review (5%)

After you receive feedback on your report, implement necessary changes as suggested by your instructor and upload your revised paper to cuLearn by **March 9**.

5. Take-Home Essay (30%)

The purpose of the Take-Home is to give students an opportunity to excavate some of the ways in which classical Islamic thought is interconnected with and relevant in our contemporary culture. The task is to use the same book you reviewed (Ibn Tufayl’s) to analyze a film from a list provided by the instructor. The films are adaptations of modern novels that seem to have been inspired by Ibn Tufayl’s philosophical tale.

The Take-Home also consists of two stages. At stage one (5%), write an introduction for your essay and submit it by **March 23**. At stage two (25%), you will write the essay and upload it **to cuLearn by April 25**.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism IS NOT tolerated in my classes. Plagiarism cases will be dealt with following Carleton’s Academic Integrity Policy. See <https://carleton.ca/secretariat/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Integrity-Policy.pdf>.

Plagiarism is to present, intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of others as one’s own. This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as your own without proper citation or reference to the original source.

Examples of plagiarism in this class include, but are not limited to:

- Using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material without proper acknowledgment in any academic assignment.
- Failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.
- Submitting a take-home exam, essay or other assignment, in whole or in part, by someone else.

For more on *Academic Integrity at Carleton*, see: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage	Point Equivalence	Grade Definition
A+	90-100	12	Excellent: Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization; capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
A	85-89	11	
A-	80-84	10	
B+	77-79	9	Good: Evidence of grasp of subject matter; some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.
B	73-76	8	
B-	70-72	7	
C+	67-69	6	Adequate: Student who if profiting from his/her university experience; understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.
C	63-66	5	
C-	60-62	4	
D+	57-59	3	Marginal: Some evidence of familiarity with subject matter and some evidence that critical and analytic skills have been developed.
D	53-56	2	
D-	50-52	1	
F	0-49	0	Inadequate: Little evidence of even superficial understanding of subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; with limited or irrelevant use of literature.

Read about the Grading System at Carleton in:

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv2>

Course Website and Submission

1. Course Website:

The course website on [cuLearn](#) is your main resource. There, you will find key updates, announcements and all necessary information about the course, including the syllabus, instructor's contact information, and more. All announcements will be sent to your Carleton account ending with [@carleton.ca](#). Please, consult this account regularly to stay informed of important updates.

2. Electronic Submission:

Book reports must be submitted electronically through the course website. To upload your assignment, log in to cuLearn, open "Submit Assignments" tab, and upload your assignment. It is your responsibility to submit your assignment on time. No exception will be made for students who run into last minute technical problems (Internet service down, cuLearn temporarily out of work, laptop broke, etc.).

3. File Format:

All written assignments must be submitted as **Microsoft Word files only** (.doc or .docx). If you use Mac, convert PAGES ext. into your WORD. PDF files will be graded, but, will receive no in-text feedback.

4. System of Source Citation:

The citation style used in this course is Chicago Notes and Bibliography. You are required to use it in all written assignment that ask for citations. You can access it directly at:

https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html

Missing Tests and Late Penalty

1. Reading Reflections:

Reflections will be accepted only if the student attends all sections of class from the beginning to end. Those from students who come late will not be accepted (or receive 1 point at best). See “Reflections Guidelines” on cuLearn for situations in which a student may lose their reflection’s mark.

2. Written Assignments:

Reports and essays submitted late without a legitimate reason will be deducted 10% of their grade per day including weekends. Extension requests must be joined with justificatory documents and must be communicated to the instructor **before the due date, not after.**

3. Missing the Midterm:

Missing the midterm without a legitimate reason will result in a grade of zero. Students who present proper documentation will have a makeup scheduled for them. There will be only one makeup exam.

4. What does a *Legitimate Reason* mean?

A legitimate reason may include illness, injury, urgent travel or other compassionate reasons (e.g., death). For illness/injury, submit Carleton’s official medical certificate: https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/med_cert.pdf. For travel, submit a copy of your itinerary with full name and dates of travel. In the event of death, submit a letter from the funeral house which confirms your attendance.

Course Protocols and Etiquettes

1. Emailing the Instructor:

Always use your Carleton account and insert the course code followed by a precise title in the subject box (RELI2310: Question about Reflection 2). Emails sent via other operators (gmail, Hotmail, etc.) risk being spammed and not read. I respond to emails within 1-2 business days, but it may take longer under special circumstances. Please, save your questions only for things that you cannot find *easily* in the syllabus and/or cuLearn.

2. Teaching Assistant:

If a TA has been appointed in this course, their contact information will be included in the syllabus and the course website. A TA is a skillful individual devoted to help you with your learning. Take advantage of their skills and interact with them with respect. Email the TA only about things they are involved with, especially marking essays and exams. For questions about attendance, reflections, exams, lectures and cuLearn, email me directly or come during office hours

3. Classroom Behavior:

The classroom is a space where every student should feel safe and included. Formative dialogue is highly encouraged, and open-mindedness is expected. Respect for each other’s differences and different views will be always sustained. Disruptive behavior, such as dual chatting, taking naps or preparing for another class while in this class, will not be tolerated.

4. Cellphones and Laptops:

The use of cellphones and laptops is **not permitted in class**. There will be short breaks during which you can check your phones. Using laptops for taking notes is allowed. However, you must (1) email me and obtain my permission, and (2) always take a seat in the front rows. Students seen consumed by their phones or laptops will receive a zero (or half the mark at best) on their reading reflection.

5. Course Sharing and Copyright:

Video/audio recording of the lectures and taking photos of the slides is not allowed. If you have a *special need* to record the lectures, you must talk to me in advance and receive my permission in writing.

Academic Accommodation Policy

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. To request accommodation the processes are as follows:

For Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre (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 a 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 (<https://carleton.ca/pmc/students/>) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Pregnancy obligation: write to the instructor 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. For more detail, see the Student Guide: <http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf>

Religious obligation: write to the instructor 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. For more details, see the Student Guide (above).

Student Resources

1. Writing Services:

Writing is a major component of this course. Students seeking to improve their writing are encouraged to benefit from Carleton's Writing Services (<https://carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>). You can meet with a writing consultant during drop-in hours on the 4th Floor of MacOdrum Library or book an appointment online. Check the Writing Centre for Student Academic Support (<https://carleton.ca/csas/>).

2. For more student resources on campus, see <https://carleton.ca/cuknowhow/student-resources/>

Department Contact Information

Religion Program, 2A39 Paterson II 613-520-2100 II religion@cunet.carleton.ca
Office Hours: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM.

Lectures Schedule

Lecture Date	Topic of the Week	Required Readings	Assignment Due
Jan. 6	Introduction to the Course	Course syllabus; Saeed, "Introduction;" and Walbridge, "Introduction."	
Jan. 13	Quran and Hadith	Saeed, 15-42.	Reflection 1
Jan. 20	Legal Thought	Saeed, 43-59; Ibn Khaldūn, " <i>Muqaddima</i> ."	Refl. 2
Jan. 27	Theological Thought	Saeed, 60-73.	Refl. 3
Feb. 3	Philosophical Thought I: Western	Saeed, 94-112.	Refl. 4
Feb. 10	Midterm Exam Writing Workshop	"Book Report Guidelines."	Midterm
Feb. 17	No Class. Winter break.		
Feb. 24	Philosophical Thought II: Eastern	Walbridge, 55-85.	Refl. 5 Book Report
Mar. 2	Mystical Thought	Saeed, 74-84; Fakhry, "Philosophy and Mysticism."	Refl. 6
Mar. 9	Rise and Fall of Science	Walbridge, 96-103; and Iqbal, "Science and Islam."	Refl. 7 Self Review
Mar. 16	Truth and Empiricism	Walbridge, 30-54.	Refl. 8
Mar. 23	Triumph of Scholastic Rationalism	Walbridge, 107-120.	Refl. 9 Outline/Intro
Mar. 30	Institutionalisation of Disagreement	Walbridge, 142-153 and 176-185.	Refl. 10
Apr. 6	Wrapping up and Review	Günther, "Ibn Tufayl's <i>Hayy Ibn Yaqzan</i> "	
Apr. 25	Last day to submit the Take-Home Essay.		

* This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor.

* Students must complete all course components to obtain credit in this class.



University Regulations for All College of the 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.

Academic Integrity at Carleton

Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the internet. More information can be found [here](#).

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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

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Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

Grading System at Carleton University

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion is below. Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value. Where the course credit is greater or less than one credit, the grade points are adjusted proportionately.

[Grading System](#)

Course Sharing Websites and Copyright

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or

distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

Statement on Class Conduct

The Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures affirm that all members of the University community share a responsibility to:

- promote equity and fairness,
- respect and value diversity,
- prevent discrimination and harassment, and preserve the freedom of its members to carry out responsibly their scholarly work without threat of interference.

Deferred Term Work

In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work.

Students who claim illness, injury or other extraordinary circumstances beyond their control as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor and **in all cases this must occur no later than three (3.0) working days after the term work was due.**

The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. More information is available [in the calendar](#).

Deferred Final Exams

Students who are unable to write a final examination because of a serious illness/emergency or other circumstances beyond their control may apply for accommodation. Normally, the accommodation for a missed final examination will be granting the student the opportunity to write a deferred examination. In specific cases when it is not possible to offer a deferred examination, and with the approval of the Dean, an alternate accommodation may be made. [More information.](#)

The application for a [deferral](#) must:

1. be made in writing or online to the Registrar's Office no later than **three working days** after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination; and,
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation and, in cases of illness, by a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination, or by appropriate documents in other cases. Medical documents must specify the date of the onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office [forms and fees page](#).

Any questions related to deferring a Final Exam or Final Assignment/Take Home Examination should be directed to the [Registrar's Office](#).

Withdrawal From Courses

Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA. WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term (noted in the Academic Year section of the Calendar each term). Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

Important dates can be found [here](#).

Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal

Make sure that you are aware of the separate deadlines for Financial and Academic withdrawal!

Making registration decisions in Carleton Central involves making a financial and academic commitment for the courses you choose, regardless of attendance. If you do not attend – you must withdraw in Carleton Central within the published deadlines to cancel your registration. [More information](#)

Department Contact Information

College of the Humanities 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

Drop box for CLCV, HUMS LATN GREK Term Papers and assignments is outside 300 P.A.

Greek and Roman Studies 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca

Drop Box is outside of 300 P.A.

Religion 2A39 Paterson Hall (613)520-2100

Religion@cunet.carleton.ca

Drop box for RELI and SAST Term Papers and assignments is outside of 2A39 P.A.

Registrar's Office 300 Tory (613)520-3500

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/>

Student Resources on Campus

[CUKnowHow Website](#)

[Academics: From registration to graduation, the tools for your success.](#)