

# RELI 2350B Winter 2019

## Classical Islamic Thought

**Meeting:** Thursday, 8:35 AM - 11:25 AM  
University Centre 180

**Instructor:** Mourad Laabdi

**Email:** mourad.laabdi@carleton.ca

**Office:** 2A61 Paterson Hall

**Office Hours:** Thursday, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, or by Appt.

**Office Phone:** 613-520-2600, extension 1991

### Course Description

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This course explores the central schools of Islamic thought and their contributions during the classical age of Islam (8th-18th century CE). Through a topical and thematic approach, students will strive to attain two goals. They will survey the most important ideas and debates that shaped the Islamic intellectual tradition from within as well as its relationship with other traditions. Then, they will probe the place of reason in classical Islamic thought and how Muslim scholars managed to reconcile the rational and traditional ways of research. Students will examine these topics in their historical contexts across many Islamic disciplines, including Qur'an and Hadith exegesis, law and legal theory, philosophy, theology and mysticism. At the same time, they will have an opportunity to test the value of classical Islamic thought for contemporary questions.

### Course Evaluation

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Reading Reflections.....	20%	(10 x 2%)
Midterm Test .....	20%	Feb. 14
Book Report (two components) .....	25%	Mar. 7 and 21
Take-Home Essay (two components) .....	35%	Apr. 4 and 27

### Required Readings

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

John Walbridge, *God and Logic in Islam: The Caliphate of Reason*, (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011). Available at Haven Books (43 Seneca St).

Ibn Tufayl, *Hayy Ibn Yaqzan: A Philosophical Tale*, Trans. Lenn Goodman, (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 2009). Available at Haven Books (43 Seneca St).

All other assigned readings will be made available on cuLearn.

## Learning Outcomes

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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 correctly between different intellectual disciplines and genres of classical Islamic texts.
- Ground various Muslim intellectual debates in their historical contexts and establish their relevance for contemporary questions and forms of knowledge.
- Express information, arguments and analyses accurately and with clarity in writing.

## Important Dates and Deadlines

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Jan. 30:	Last day to withdraw from this course with a full fee adjustment
Feb. 14:	Guest speaker, and Midterm Test
Feb. 18-22:	Winter break. No classes.
Mar. 7:	Book Report Due
Mar. 21	Self-Review Due
Apr. 4:	Intro/Bibliography Due
Apr. 27:	Last day to submit the Take-Home Essay.

## Course Website (cuLearn)

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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, your instructor's contact info and much more. All announcements will be sent to your Carleton account ending with [@carleton.ca](#).

Please, consult this account regularly. Failing to do so which results in missing a deadline or overlooking key information about an assignment will NOT be accepted as an excuse.

## Course Requirements

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### 1. Reading

By enrolling in this course, you agree that it is your responsibility to read and understand on your own all assigned materials. To benefit the most from each reading, ask yourself: what is the main focus and goal of the authors, how they present their arguments and what is their evidence, does the content of the text agree/disagree with your established convictions, etc.? Always reflect on your authors' views and do not be the sponge that merely absorbs content. Reading the assigned materials is your first and decisive step to doing well in this course, since all exams will contain questions that engage the assigned readings.

### 2. Reading Reflections (20%)

Students are required to submit one reflection per week on all assigned readings **between January 15 and April 2**. There are 10 reflections in total, each is worth 2% of your final grade. Reflections must be typed,

printed out and handed in class. See “Reflections Guide” on cuLearn for how to complete this assignment successfully and earn the full mark.

### 3. Mid-Term Test (20 %)

The midterm test will be written in class **on February 14**, cover all lecture materials and assigned readings from the first class, and consist of multiple choice and/or short answer questions. A “Midterm Guide” will be posted on cuLearn two weeks into the course.

### 4. Book Report (25%)

This assignment consists of two stages.

#### Stage one (20%):

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 of the book, so make sure you understand well the main task and all requirements. Three supplementary documents to help you with this are available on cuLearn: “Assignment Guidelines,” “How to Write a Book Report,” and “How to Summarize.” Book reports must be uploaded to cuLearn by **March 7**.

#### Stage Two: Self-Review (5%)

After you receive feedback on your report, you will implement all necessary changes as suggested by your instructor and upload your revised paper to cuLearn by **March 21**. See “Self Review Guidelines” on cuLearn for full details.

### 5. Take-Home Essay (35%)

The Take-Home also consists of two stages. At stage one (5%), you write an introduction for your essay and submit it by **April 4**. At stage two (30%), you will write the essay and submit it by **April 27**.

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 for contemporary issues. The task, here, is to use the same book you reviewed to analyze one of two films. The films are adaptations of modern stories that some scholars claim to have been inspired by Ibn Tufayl’s philosophical novel. Your mission is to present and explain some of the key forms of their intertextuality. A full guide will be posted on cuLearn.

## Academic Integrity

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**Plagiarism WILL NOT be tolerated.** Cases of plagiarism will be dealt with in accordance with Carleton’s Academic Integrity Policy: <https://carleton.ca/secretariat/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Integrity-Policy.pdf>

**Plagiarism is presenting, 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 plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- Submitting a take-home exam, essay or other assignment, in whole or in part, by someone else.
- 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.

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

## Submission Matters

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### 1. Electronic Submission:

All written assignments in this course are to be submitted electronically through the course website. 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.).

### 2. File Format:

All written assignments must be submitted as **Microsoft Word files only** (.doc or .docx). If you use Mac, convert your PAGES ext. into WORD. Files with extensions that I cannot open will be given a zero until resubmitted in the proper format by the student. Assignments submitted as a PDF will be graded, but, will receive no in-text feedback.

### 3. System of Source Citation:

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

[https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html)

## 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:

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

## Missing Tests and Late Penalty

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Reading Reflections will be considered only if the student attends class from the beginning to the end. Reflections from students who come late will not be accepted.

Book reports submitted late without a *legitimate reason* will be deducted **10%** of the assignment's grade **per day** including weekends. Requests for extension must be accompanied with proper justificatory documents and must be communicated to the instructor before the due date, not after.

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

A *legitimate reason* may include illness, injury, urgent travel or a compassionate reason (e.g., death). For illness/injury, you must submit Carleton's official medical certificate: [https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/med\\_cert.pdf](https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/med_cert.pdf). For travel, a copy of the itinerary that shows clearly your name and dates of travel must be provided. In the event of death, you must submit a letter from the funeral house or religious institution that performed the funeral which confirms your attendance.

## Academic Accommodation Policy

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

**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).

**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 a 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto: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).

## Protocols and Etiquettes

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### 1. Classroom Behavior:

The classroom is a space where every student should feel safe and included. Formative dialogue is encouraged and open-mindedness is expected. Respect for each other's differences and opposing views

will be sustained at all times. In addition, disruptive behavior including arriving late, dual chatting, taking a nap and preparing for another course during this class is not permitted and will not be tolerated.

## **2. Cellphones and Laptops:**

It is strictly prohibited to use cellphones, laptops or tablets in class. Be prepared to take notes using pen and paper. If you have a *special need* for using a laptop, you must email me in advance and obtain my permission in writing. Students spotted using their phones in class will receive a zero on their reading reflection.

## **3. Emailing the Instructor:**

I have made a considerable effort to provide extensive details on every component of this course on cuLearn. So, please, keep your emails to me about information that you cannot find *easily* in the syllabus and/or cuLearn. When email me, use your Carleton account. Emails sent via other operators (gmail, Hotmail, etc.) risk being automatically spammed, therefore not read. Emails are normally responded to within 1-2 business days, but it may take longer to reply under special circumstances.

## **4. 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.

At Carleton University, 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).

## **Student Resources**

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### **1. Writing Services:**

Writing is a major component of this course and students need to improve their writing skills in order to do well. You are encouraged to make use of Carleton's Writing Services (<https://carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>). You can see a writing consultant during drop-in hours on the 4th Floor of MacOdrum Library or book an appointment online. See also 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**

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**Religion Program**, 2A39 Paterson II 613-520-2100 II [religion@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:religion@cunet.carleton.ca)

Office Hours: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM.

## Lectures Schedule

Lectures	Topics	Readings	Assignments
Jan. 10	Introduction	The Syllabus; Saeed, "Introduction;" Walbridge, "Introduction."	
Jan. 17	Quran and Hadith	Saeed, 15-42.	Refl. 1
Jan. 24	Truth and Empiricism	Walbridge, 30-54.	Refl. 2
Jan. 31	Legal and Theological Thought	Saeed, 43-71.	Refl. 3
Feb. 7	Mystical Thought	Saeed, 74-84; and Fakhry, "Philosophy and Mysticism."	Refl. 4
Feb. 14	Writing Workshop Guest speaker	TBD	Midterm Exam
Feb. 21	<b>No Class. Winter break.</b>		
Feb. 28	Philosophical Thought I	Saeed, 94-112.	Refl. 5
Mar. 7	Philosophical Thought II	Walbridge, 55-85.	Refl. 6 <b>Book Report</b>
Mar. 14	Rise and Fall of Science	Iqbal, "Science and Islam;" and Walbridge, 96-103.	Refl. 7
Mar. 21	Triumph of Scholastic Rationalism	Walbridge, 107-120.	Refl. 8 <b>Self Review</b>
Mar. 28	The Institutionalisation of Disagreement	Walbridge, 142-153 and 176-185.	Refl. 9
Apr. 4	Wrapping up and Review	Ibn Tufayl's <i>Hayy Ibn Yaqzan</i>	Refl. 10 <b>Intro/Bibliography</b>
Apr. 27	<b>Last day to submit the Take-Home</b>		

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



## University Regulations for All Humanities Courses

### Copies of Written Work Submitted

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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

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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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613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto: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).

### **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](http://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**

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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**

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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**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

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

[CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto: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](mailto:GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop Box is outside of 300 P.A.

**Religion** 2A39 Paterson Hall (613)520-2100

[Religion@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto: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

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[CUKnowHow Website](#)

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