

Carleton University
College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI 3330B
Sufism
Winter 2018

Instructor Information

Professor: Mohammed Rustom
Office Hours: M 10:00 am–11:30 am
Office Location: 2A61 Paterson Hall
Email: mrustom@connect.carleton.ca

Course Information

Class Meetings: T 11:35 am–2:25 pm
Class Location: 2204 Canal Building
Course Website: Available on CU Learn
COH Website: www.carleton.ca/chum/

Course Description

This course offers a survey of the origins, development, and various expressions of Sufism, Islam’s mystical tradition. We will begin with an inquiry into how the term “Sufism” has been constructed in modern religious studies, and will then shift focus to the historical manifestations of Islamic mysticism in a variety of linguistic and cultural zones. This will set the stage for a careful presentation of the major concepts, themes, and practices which have animated the Sufi tradition from past to present.

Learning Objectives

- ❖ To become acquainted with the field of Sufi studies
- ❖ To understand the methods employed by scholars in studying the Sufi tradition
- ❖ To be able to critically analyze classical and contemporary Islamic mystical texts
- ❖ To gain a firm grasp of academic research methods, particularly writing and citation

Required Texts

Michael Sugich, *Signs on the Horizons*
William Chittick, *Sufism: A Beginner’s Guide*
Carl Ernst, *Sufism: An Introduction to the Mystical Tradition of Islam*
Articles in Islamic Mysticism (various authors; on course website) = AIM

Recommended Text

Nasr et al. (eds.), *The Study Quran: A New Translation and Commentary*

Requirements and Due Dates

/20	Book Report	Feb. 6 th
/40	Research Paper	Mar. 20 th
/40	Final Exam	TBD

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

- Jan. 9th** **The Academic Study of Sufism**
Readings
Ernst, *Sufism*, chapter 1
Khalil and Sheikh, “Sufism in Western Historiography” in *AIM*
- Jan. 16th** **An Overview of the Sufi Tradition**
Readings
Ernst, *Sufism*, chapter 3
Chittick, *Sufism*, chapter 2
Nguyen, “Sufi Theological Thought” in *AIM*
- Jan. 23rd** **The Roots of Sufism**
Readings
Ernst, *Sufism*, chapter 2
Chittick, *Sufism*, chapter 1
- Jan. 30th** **Turning to God**
Readings
Chittick, *Sufism*, chapter 3
Renard, “*Al-Jihad al-akbar*” in *AIM*
- Feb. 6th** **Divine Assistance**
Readings
Chittick, *Sufism*, chapter 4
Rustom, “The Sufi Teachings of Dhu’l-Nun” in *AIM*
- Feb. 13th** **Patience and Gratitude**
Readings
Chittick, “Weeping in Classical Sufism” in *AIM*
Khalil, “On Cultivating Gratitude in Sufi Virtue Ethics” in *AIM*
- Feb. 20th** **Winter Break; No Class**
- Feb. 27th** **Invocation and Prayer**
Readings
Ernst, *Sufism*, chapter 4
Chittick, *Sufism*, chapter 5
- Mar. 6th** **Love and Longing**
Readings
Chittick, *Sufism*, chapters 6 and 9

- Mar. 13th** **Knowledge and Wisdom**
Readings
 Chittick, *Sufism*, chapter 10
 Shah-Kazemi, “The Notion and Significance of *ma‘rifa* in Sufism”
- Mar. 20th** **Sufi Orders and Institutions**
Readings
 Ernst, *Sufism*, chapter 5
 Ohlander, “Sufism in Medieval Societies” in *AIM*
- Mar. 27th** **Sufi Poetry, Music, and Aesthetics**
Readings
 Ernst, *Sufism*, chapter 6
 Chittick, *Sufism*, chapter 8
 Nasr, “Islam and Music” in *AIM*
Sufi Poetry and Music
 Arabic: www.youtube.com/watch?v=fO15rILqDFg
 Persian: www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tSfqUuipU8
 Punjabi: www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZEqosTBRKc
- Apr. 3rd** **Sufi Dance and Ritual**
Readings
 Ernst, *Sufism*, chapter 7
 Chittick, *Sufism*, chapter 7
Sufi Dhikrs from Around the World:
 Chechnya: www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5goISKPSH8
 Morocco: www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bwwmWShmo8
 Saudi Arabia: www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-7MAEo1-FE
 Syria: www.youtube.com/watch?v=IO3MOQD95X0
 Turkey: www.youtube.com/watch?v=iSTh0ybvSLk
- Apr. 10th** **Video: *Alchemist of Happiness***

Book Report Guidelines

Instructions

Carefully read Michael Sugich's modern Sufi hagiography, *Signs on the Horizons*. After you have completed the book, proceed to type up a report on it (see below for formatting guidelines). The first part of the report must thoroughly summarize the content of the book in any way you deem suitable, but not chapter-by-chapter. The second part must provide a thoughtful, analytical answer to the following question: In light of the readings assigned in the course thus far, do you consider this work to be an effective introduction to Sufism?

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 text will prove to be very beneficial in preparing for the test and the research paper.

Method of Evaluation

The report is out of 20, and is worth 20% of the total course mark. For a good mark, you have to (1) follow the format guidelines to a tee; (2) offer an effective summary of the text; (3) demonstrate to me, through your analysis of the work, that you have given considerable thought to the material.

Due Date

Book reports are due at the beginning of class on **February 6th, 2018**. Emailed versions of the assignment are not acceptable.

Penalties

Reports 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 reports will be assigned a zero, and the issue will be taken up with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Format

1. Your report should be 6 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).
4. 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).
5. 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.
6. 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).
7. 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.

Research Paper Guidelines

Instructions

Select one of the Sufi figures from the list below and provide a thorough presentation and analysis of his/her major teachings. I have grouped each author under one of his/her major areas of work. Next to each name, I have listed the most important book in which translations of the respective author's writings (either in part or in whole) can be found. Your research paper is to be based on a careful engagement with one of these texts. If the title you are looking for is checked out from the library, you can acquire it through Interlibrary Loan. You must also consult the Islamic studies resources document, located on the course website, in order to find other materials by and about your selected figure.

Devotional Writings

Rabi'a, section in Sells, *Early Islamic Mysticism*
Zayn al-'Abidin, *The Psalms of Islam*, trans. Chittick
'A'isha Ba'unyya, *Emanations of Grace*, trans. Homerin
'Abd Allah Ansari, *Intimate Conversations*, trans. Thackston

Invocation, Prayer, and Practice

Abu Madyan, *The Way of Abu Madyan*, trans. Cornell
Ibn 'Ata' Allah, *The Key to Salvation*, trans. M. Danner
'Isa Jund Allah, *The Treatise on Meditation*, trans. in Ernst, *The Teachings of Sufism*
Baqli, *On the Meaning of Spiritual Music*, trans. in Nasr, *Islamic Art and Spirituality*
Ahmad al-'Alawi, *On the Invocation of the Divine Name*, in Cadavid, *Two Who Attained*

Knowledge and Psychology

Ghazali, *The Marvels of the Heart*, trans. Skellie
Kalabadhi, *The Doctrine of the Sufis*, trans. Arberry
Ibn 'Ata' Allah, *The Book of Wisdom*, trans. V. Danner
Sarraj, section in Renard, *Knowledge of God in Classical Sufism*
Makki, section in Renard, *Knowledge of God in Classical Sufism*
'Umar Suhrawardi, section in Renard, *Knowledge of God in Classical Sufism*

Spiritual Advice

Ibn 'Abbad, *Letters on the Sufi Path*, trans. Renard
Al-Darqawi, *Letters of a Sufi Master*, trans. Burckhardt
Sharaf al-Din Maneri, *One Hundred Letters*, trans. Jackson
Nizam al-Din Awliya', *Morals of the Heart*, trans. Lawrence
Qushayri, *The Testament to Disciples*, trans. in Ernst, *The Teachings of Sufism*
Khwaja Khurd, *The Light of Oneness*, trans. in Chittick, *In Search of the Lost Heart*

Virtue Ethics

Hujwiri, *The Kashf al-Mahjub*, trans. Nicholson
Kharraz, *The Book of Truthfulness*, trans. Arberry
Al-Haddad, *The Book of Assistance*, trans. al-Badawi
Qushayri, *al-Qushayri's Epistle on Sufism*, trans. Knysch

Muhasibi, section in *Early Islamic Mysticism*, trans. Sells
'Abd al-Qadir Jilani, *Revelations of the Unseen*, trans. Holland
Ghazali, *On Disciplining the Soul OR Breaking the Two Desires*, trans. Winter
Najm al-Din Razi, *The Path of God's Bondsmen from Origin to Return*, trans. Algar
Sulami, *Stumblings of Those Aspiring*, trans. in Heer and Honerkamp, *Three Early Sufi Texts*

Divine Love

Ahmad Sam'ani, selections in Chittick, *Divine Love*
'Abd Allah Ansari, selections in Chittick, *Divine Love*
Jalal al-Din Rumi, *The Sufi Path of Love*, trans. Chittick
'A'isha Ba'unyya, *The Principles of Sufism*, trans. Homerin
Fakhr al-Din 'Iraqi, *Divine Flashes*, trans. Chittick and Wilson
Ahmad Ghazali, *Sawanih: Inspirations from the World of Pure Spirits*, trans. Pourjavady

Sufi Quran Commentary

Ja'far al-Sadiq, *Spiritual Gems*, trans. F. Mayer
Ibn 'Ajiba, *The Immense Ocean*, trans. Fitzgerald and Armesouk
Kashani, *Tafsir al-Kashani*, trans. Hamza: www.altafsir.com/Books/kashani.pdf
Qushayri, *Subtleties of the Allusions*, trans. Sands: www.altafsir.com/Books/lataif.pdf
Maybudi, *The Unveiling of Secrets*, trans. Chittick: www.altafsir.com/Books/kashf.pdf
Tustari, *Tafsir al-Tustari*, trans. Keeler and Keeler: www.altafsir.com/Books/Tustari.pdf

Mystical Theology

Hallaj, section in Sells, *Early Islamic Mysticism*
Junayd, section in Sells, *Early Islamic Mysticism*
Ibn al-Farid, *Sufi Verse, Sainly Life*, trans. Homerin
Niffari, *The Mawaqif and Mukhatabat*, trans. Arberry

Metaphysics

Mulla Sadra, *The Elixir of the Gnostics*, trans. Chittick
Ibn 'Arabi, *The Sufi Path of Knowledge*, trans. Chittick
Jami, *Gleams*, trans. Chittick in Murata, *Chinese Gleams of Sufi Light*
Liu Chi, *Displaying the Concealment of the Real Realm* in Murata, *Chinese Gleams*
Wang Tai-yü, *Great Learning of the Pure and the Real* in Murata, *Chinese Gleams*
Amir Abdel Kader, *The Spiritual Writings of Amir Abdel Kader*, trans. Chodkiewicz

Autobiography

Shams-i Tabrizi, *Me & Rumi*, trans. Chittick
Baqli, *The Unveiling of Secrets*, trans. Ernst
'Allama Tabataba'i, *Kernel of the Kernel*, trans. Faghfoory
Fatima al-Yashrutiyya, selections in Cadavid, *Two Who Attained*
Tirmidhi, *The Concept of Sainthood in Early Islamic Mysticism*, trans. O'Kane and Radtke

Symbolic Tales

Farid al-Din 'Attar, *Conference of the Birds*, trans. Davis
Avicenna, *Treatise on the Birds* in Corbin, *Avicenna and the Visionary Recital*
Suhrawardi, *Philosophical Allegories and Mystical Treatises* (pick one), trans. Thackston

Evaluation

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 quality of its language, including grammar, spelling, and style; (2) the clarity of its thesis; (3) the coherence of its argument(s); (4) evidence of original research and its careful integration into the fabric of the essay; (5) 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 “This essay is 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, it shall be demonstrated that, because of x, y and z obtain.” You may not use the wording of this example in your essay.

Due Date

Essays are due at the beginning of class on **March 20th, 2018**. E-mailed copies of essays 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.

Format

1. Essays are to be twelve full pages in length (excluding the title page and bibliography), double spaced, and written in Times New Roman font (size twelve).
2. Diction is to be formal, and the essay is to be written in Canadian English. Grammar, syntax, spelling, and style must be impeccable.
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.
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 ten). A bibliography must be appended to the essay. Your method of citation must follow the rules laid out in the latest iteration of the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

5. When citing from a translation of the Quran, an internal citation as follows will suffice: (Q 18:5).
6. Do not put your quotations in italics, bold, or a combination of the two. Sentences which are more than three lines long are to be isolated, single spaced, and reduced to font size eleven with their margins indented to one inch on both the right and the 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.

Final Exam Guidelines

Content

The final exam will cover all of the course's lectures and assigned readings, from the first lecture to the last.

Date, Time, and Location

The exam will be scheduled by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and announced in February. The class shall be informed of the date, time, and location of the examination as soon as this information is made available.

Length

The exam will be three hours in length.

Structure

The exam is divided into two sections. The entire exam is out of 40, and is worth 40% of the total course mark.

Part I will consist of ten items in English and Arabic transliteration, all of which must be defined/described in a clear and detailed manner. Each question is out of two. The first part of the exam, therefore, is out of 20, and is worth 20% of the total course mark.

Part II will consist of six questions, four which must be answered. Each question is out of five. This part of the exam, therefore, is out 20, and is worth 20% of the total course mark. The questions in Part II are response-type questions. This means that responses do not have to be in essay format. They simply have to address the question asked in as thorough and thoughtful a manner as possible. Answers must be both descriptive and analytical.



University Regulations for 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.

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 on <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/#AIatCU>.

Academic Accommodation Policy

Academic Accommodation

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 details see the [Student Guide](#)

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](#)

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).

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 Chart](#)

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 Exams

Students who do not write/attend a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply to write a deferred examination.

1. be made in writing 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](#).

The granting of a deferral also requires that the student has performed satisfactorily in the course according to the evaluation scheme established in the Course Outline, excluding the final examination for which deferral privileges are requested. Reasons for denial of a deferral may include, among other conditions, a failure to (i) achieve a minimum score in the course before the final examination; (ii) attend a minimum number of classes; (iii) successfully complete a specific task (e.g. term paper, critical report, group project, computer or other assignment); (iv) complete laboratory work; (v) successfully complete one or more midterms; or (vi) meet other reasonable conditions of successful performance.

More information can be found [in the calendar](#).

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

Withdrawal From Courses

Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA.

NEW FALL 2017: WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term. Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

Dates can be found here: <http://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>

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 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](#)