Carleton University
College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI 3843A
Al-Ghazali’s *The Niche of Lights*
Winter 2012

**Instructor Information**

Professor Mohammed Rustom
Office Hours: Thursdays, 11:30-1:30
Office Location: 2A61 Paterson Hall
E-mail: mrorustom@connect.carleton.ca

**Course Information**

Class Meetings: Fridays, 8:35-11:25
Classroom Location: 2202 Canal Building
Course Website: Accessible through Carleton WebCT

**Course Description**

This course introduces students to the thought of the famous Muslim mystic, theologian, and philosopher Abu Hamid al-Ghazali (d. 1111). We will closely study (in translation) one of his last and most mature works, *The Niche of Lights*. This text is particularly important because it concisely presents the main outlines of Ghazali’s worldview, bringing together a number of different disciplines ranging from ontology and cosmology to spiritual psychology and scriptural interpretation. *Prerequisite: Professor’s permission.*

**Course Texts**

Al-Ghazali, *The Niche of Lights*
Eric Ormsby, *Ghazali: The Revival of Islam*

**Requirement and Due Date (See Course Site for Details)**

/100 Paper Mar. 30th
Schedule of Lectures and Readings

January 6th

*The Alchemist of Happiness*

Readings: *The Niche of Lights*, Foreword; Translator’s Introduction
Start Reading *Ghazali: The Revival of Islam*

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January 13th

*The Nature of Light I*

Readings: *The Niche of Lights*, Author’s Introduction; Chapter 1

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January 20th

*The Nature of Light II*

Readings: *The Niche of Lights*, Chapter 1 cont’d.

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January 27th

*The Nature of Light III*

Readings: *The Niche of Lights*, Chapter 1 cont’d.
Finish Reading *Ghazali: The Revival of Islam*

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February 3rd

*The Nature of Light IV*

Readings: *The Niche of Lights*, Chapter 1 cont’d.

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February 10th

*Symbolism and Scripture I*

Readings: *The Niche of Lights*, Chapter 2
February 17th

*Symbolism and Scripture II*

Readings:  *The Niche of Lights, Chapter 2*

February 24th

* Reading Week, No Class

March 2nd

*Symbolism and Scripture III*

Readings:  *The Niche of Lights, Chapter 2 cont’d.*

March 9th

*Veils of Light and Darkness I*

Readings:  *The Niche of Lights, Chapter 3 cont’d.*

March 16th

*Veils of Light and Darkness II*

Readings:  *The Niche of Lights, Chapter 3 cont’d.*

March 23rd

*Veils of Light and Darkness III*

Readings:  *The Niche of Lights, Chapter 3 cont’d.*

March 30th

*Marvels of the Heart*

*Papers Due*
REGULATIONS COMMON TO 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.

PLAGIARISM
The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- 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;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course.

GRADING SYSTEM
Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>85-89</td>
<td>(11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>(10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>(9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>Failure</td>
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ABS Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF Official deferral (see "Petitions to Deferr")
FND Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY
The last date to withdraw from FALL TERM courses is DEC. 6, 2010. The last day to withdraw from FALL/WINTER (Full Term) and WINTER term courses is APRIL 5, 2011.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION
You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me 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. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term. For more details visit the PMC website: carleton.ca/pmc/accommodations/

PETITIONS TO DEFER
If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a FINAL assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please contact the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept. Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within 5 working days of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)
College of the Humanities 520-2809 300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809 300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100 2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500 300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850 302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937 501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125 4th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125 4th Floor Library