

RELI 2713A

Mysticism

Fall 2009

Instructor Information

Professor Mohammed Rustom
E-mail: mrustom@connect.carleton.ca
Office Hours: Monday, 11:30-12:30
Office Location: 2A61 Paterson Hall

Course Information

Classroom Location: 417 Southam Hall
Class Meetings: Tuesday & Thursday, 8:35-9:55
Course Website: Accessible through Carleton WebCT

Course Description

By drawing on the writings of the foremost past and present representatives of mysticism on the one hand, as well as the work of contemporary scholars engaged in its academic study on the other, this course offers a survey of mysticism's central themes and various expressions as articulated by the spiritual traditions of the world's major religions.

Note: This course precludes additional credit for RELI 2300

Required Texts

Articles (See "Files" on Course Site for Document)

Withall Perry (ed.), *The Spiritual Ascent* (Carleton Bookstore)

Seyyed Hossein Nasr, *Knowledge and the Sacred* (Carleton Bookstore)

Requirements and Due Dates (See "Files" for Details)

/25	Reading Logs	Sept. 17 th , 24 th Oct. 1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th Nov. 5 th , 19 th , 26 th
/30	Midterm Test	Nov. 10 th
/45	Research Paper	Dec. 3 rd

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

September 10th

What is Mysticism?

Readings: *Article 1: "Mysticism"*

September 15th & 17th

The Absolute

Readings: *The Spiritual Ascent, 771; 773-775; 803-813*
Article 2, "The Absolute"

September 22nd & 24th

The Relative

Readings: *The Spiritual Ascent, 23; 26-28; 83-84; 775-790*

September 29th & October 1st

Selfhood and the Fall

Readings: *The Spiritual Ascent, 42-47; 53-55; 65-77; 89-94; 118-120;*
480-484; 488-493; 561-562; 573-578

October 6th & 8th

The Homeward Journey

Readings: *The Spiritual Ascent, 64-65; 77-82; 142-152; 275-295; 484-488*
Article 3, "Purification"

October 13th & 15th

Spiritual Virtues

Readings: *The Spiritual Ascent, 152-161; 190-203; 509-512; 595-608; 663-670;*
676-679

October 20th & 22nd

Action, Invocation, Liberation

Readings: *The Spiritual Ascent*, 329-335; 520-549; 692-707; 745-749; 1001-1042

October 27th & 29th

Love

Readings: *The Spiritual Ascent*, 612-635; 636-645
Article 4, "The Unitive Life"

November 3rd & 5th

Knowledge

Readings: *The Spiritual Ascent*, 136-142; 204-222; 749-770; 814-828
Article 5, "Love and Knowledge"

November 17th & 19th

Non-duality

Readings: *The Spiritual Ascent*, 835-895; 971-1000

November 24th & 26th

Myth and Symbolism

Readings: *The Spiritual Ascent*, 302-324; 828-835; 941-954
Article 6, "Rites and Symbols"

December 1st & 3rd

Sacred Art

Readings: *The Spiritual Ascent*, 679-691
Article 7, "An Introduction to Sacred Art"

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 range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized work to a final grade of “F” for the course, and even suspension from all studies or expulsion from the University.

GRADING SYSTEM

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

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B+ = 77-79 (9)	C+ = 67-69 (6)
A = 85-89 (11)	B = 73-76 (8)	C = 63-66 (5)
A - = 80-84 (10)	B - = 70-72 (7)	C - = 60-62 (4)
D+ = 57-59 (3)	D = 53-56 (2)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. No academic credit
WDN	Withdrawn from the course
ABS	Absent from the final examination
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
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 November 16, 2009. The last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter (full year) and Winter term courses is March 12, 2010.

REQUESTS FOR 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 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. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

Religious obligation: 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. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

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 are 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 I receive 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: http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/acad_accom.html

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>

PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to complete a **final** term paper or write a **final** examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply in writing within five working days to the Registrar's Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Classics and 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	500 Unicentre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632	4 th floor Library
Learning Commons 520-1125	4 th floor Library