

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES
RELIGION PROGRAM: RELI 3330A (15786) WINTER 2010
SUFİ SPIRITUALITY**

Instructor: Leonard Librande

Phone: (613) 520-2100

Class: T 8:30-10; Th 8:30-10

E-mail: Use WebCT Email for RELI 3330A

Location: 3174 MacKenzie

Office hours: In Room 2A35PA Tuesdays 10:00-12:00

Course Description

This course will consider different ways of answering the question "What is Sufism?" by providing an overview of the "faith" and "cumulative tradition" of Sufism.

Precludes additional credit for RELI 3402 taken in Winter 2007 and RELI 3403.

Required Texts

William C. Chittick, *Sufism A Short Introduction* (OneWorld, 2005)

Early Islamic Mysticism, ed. Michael A. Sells (Paulist Press, 1996)

Course Requirements

The final grade of this course will be calculated as follows:

One-hour In-Class Exam (Feb 11)	(30%)
Four-page Term Paper (Due Mar 30)	(35%)
Two-hour Final Exam (Scheduled in April Exam Period)	(35%)

Course Goals

The goals of this course relate to the disciplined study of a religion, especially in terms of what is entitled *Religionswissenschaft* or the scientific study of religion.

- To survey the early religious history of Sufi spirituality.
- To seek an understanding of Sufi spirituality.
- To learn how this spirituality fits with Islam and the *sharī'a*.

2010 WINTER TERM 3330A (Tuesdays and Thursdays)

Jan 5	Jan 7	Feb 2	Feb 4	Mar 2	Mar 4	Mar 30	Apr 1
Jan 12	Jan 14	Feb 9	Feb 11	Mar 9	Mar 11		
Jan 19	Jan 21	WINTER BREAK		Mar 16	Mar 18		
Jan 26	Jan 28	Feb 23	Feb 25	Mar 23	Mar 25		

There will be no class or review during the Review Period.

Four-Page Term Paper (worth 35% of Final Grade)

The term paper for this course should

- (1) offer an explanation of what the phrase “Sufis spirituality” means as applied to Islam and
- (2) at the same time exemplify and substantiate this explanation in the words and behaviour of one of the Muslim figures presented in Sells’ *Early Islamic Mysticism*.

Your first step then is to begin collecting material that helps explain the phrase “Sufi spirituality”, from this course’s lectures and texts as well as from the many sources available through library resources. Your explanation should be couched in terms of the thought and practice of a Sufi personage—for example, Junayd or Muhasibi—whose ideas and practices are described in *Early Islamic Mysticism*. This personage should provide an example and context for your explanation of “Sufi Spirituality”.

In explanation you should recognize that the English term “spirituality” may impose a western context on Sufism. Even the term “Sufi” may cloud the issue. Both of these terms in the context of a course to study “mysticism” may confuse the true nature and character of what it is we are studying here. It is because of this possible confusion that these terms—especially “Sufi” and “spirituality”—need to be explained and ultimately rendered meaningful on the basis of the Muslim context that can stand on its own, namely, as found in the words and behaviour of one of Sufis in Sells’ text.

Finally, in composing the paper, add footnotes or endnotes as appropriate to your essay. At the end of your essay provide a bibliography of your sources (books or articles). The length of the paper is to be no more than 1000 words (4 double spaced pages, margins top and bottom 1”, right and left 1.25”), excluding the footnotes and the bibliography.

Do not to use web sources. The one exception is any reliably translated works from the Sufi whom you have chosen or additional biographical information about this figure on the web. Otherwise you must rely on books and articles available in the library or through interlibrary loan.

Given the brevity of this paper, it should not normally include any quotations. Quotations if required ought to be included in the footnotes or endnotes. As for the style of the bibliography and notes, use one style consistently. For example, if you use

the MLA (Modern Language Association) style sheet in the case of a bibliographic entry, a book or article will be cited as follows:

Abdel-Kader, Dr. Ali Hassan. The Life, Personality and Writing of al-Junayd: A Study of a Third/Ninth Century Mystic with an Edition and Translation of His Writing. London: Luzac & Company Ltd., 1976.

Danner, Victor. "Islamic Mysticism." Studies in Comparative Religion (1976): 25-36.

The process of writing a paper should be simple enough if you use your common sense. Start early. Start collecting information on the meaning of "spirituality". Consult various general sources like the early twentieth century Hasting's *The Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics* or the more recent *Encyclopaedia of Religion* edited by Mircea Eliade. Consider the meaning of "spirituality" in the light of the Sufi and his/her writings found in Sells' work. Then write out your explanation of the phrase "Sufi spirituality" in an articulate and organized style.

The paper is due at the March 30th class. Papers handed in after that date will lose an additional 2.0 points each day late. After April 7th papers will not be accepted. If you have verifiable problems in meeting these deadlines, speak to me. Don't let things slip to the last minute!

In general a grade in the D range indicates that the writer has not understood the topic chosen, has done too little or no research to support the description of the topic, and has failed to offer any development of the topic from paragraph to paragraph. This paper may repeat thoughts again and again and may be filled with mechanical faults.

A grade in the C range can be achieved by a clear description of the topic chosen, but there is no development of the topic and it remains vague and uninteresting. This paper has insufficient supporting evidence and relies too much on personal opinion without defending the opinion.

A grade in the B range can be awarded when the writer demonstrates the topic's relevance to related and similar topics. This paper is well organized, has enough supporting evidence and is organized around one main idea. The writing in this paper is mechanically correct with few exceptions.

A grade in the A range will be given when the writer locates the topic for the reader within broader spheres of study. This is a paper that is lively and interesting; it has style and all its parts fit the topic.

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