

SUFISM: ISLAMIC MYSTICISM AND SPRITUALITY
We 5:00PM - 7:40PM, Deuxième Maison (DM) 110
Department of Religious Studies, FIU

Professor: Dr. Iqbal S. Akhtar (iakhtar@fiu.edu)
Teaching Assistant: Ali Oskrouchi (aoskr001@fiu.edu)

Office hours: After class or by appointment
Office location: DM 359B

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The development of Islam in Late Antiquity divided the religious authority of the Prophet into extant two classes of knowledge: orthodox theology (*'ilm al-kalām*) and mysticism (*taṣawwuf*). Whereas the theologians focused on the interpreting and safeguarding the law, the mystics looked beyond the law to union with the Divine. Ultimately the breadth of the spread of Islam into Asia and sub-Saharan Africa was almost exclusively through the syncretic and esoteric teachings of the mystics who formed bridges between indigenous philosophies and the Islamic tradition by a focus on love of the Divine, the Prophet, and his family over fear of Divine judgment. This course will explore the depth and breadth of the mystical tradition of Islam (Sufism) through primary and secondary texts.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students shall be able to: (1) Recognize the major themes of Islamic mystical thought and the complex varieties of Sufism which emerge from the Near East to South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. (2) Compare and contrast orthodox theological and mystical interpretations of core Islamic beliefs from the Quran and Prophetic Traditions. (3) Analyze the interaction of Near Eastern Islamic mysticism with other civilizations, such as Indic Vedanta and Jewish Kabala. (4) Assess the historical legacy and continued impact of the Sufi legacy in the Islamic world today through art, architecture, music, politics, etc...

REQUIRED TEXTS

Haleem, M. A. S. Abdel, trans. *The Qur'an (Oxford World's Classics)*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Jamal, Mahmood, ed. *Islamic Mystical Poetry: Sufi Verse from the Early Mystics to Rumi (Penguin Classics)*. New York: Penguin Classics, 2012.

Ridgeon, Lloyd. (Ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Sufism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

GRADING

Attendance/participation	10%
Class assignments	15%
Mid-term examination	20%
Student presentations	25%
Final paper	30%

CLASS SCHEDULE

11 January 2017	Course introduction- major themes
18 January 2017	In lieu of class, please attend the lecture at the Jewish Museum at 7pm
25 January 2017	Sufism and the Quran Readings: Haleem, <i>The Quran</i> - Read chapters 3, 24, 101-114
1 February 2017	Sufism in Asia and Africa Readings: Ridgeon, <i>The Cambridge Companion to Sufism</i> - Parts III
8 February 2017	Sufi poetry Readings: Jamal, <i>Islamic Mystical Poetry</i>
15 February 2017	Class workshop on Nūr Nama Readings: See Blackboard Class presentations on Sufi poetry in class- each student 5 minutes
22 February 2017	Women in Islamic practice Guest Lecture by Prof. Huma Ghosh
1 March 2017	Sufism in the West Readings: See Blackboard Guest Lecture: Marcia Hermansen
8 March 2017	NO CLASS Midterm examination (Blackboard)
15 March 2017	NO CLASS- SPRING BREAK
22 March 2017	South Asian Sufi music Readings: See Blackboard Guest Lecture: Zafreen Jaffery Paper proposal due
29 March 2017	Class will instead be held on 27 March 2017 at 7pm in CBC 232 - 235

5 April 2017	Ginans as Sufi literature Readings: See Blackboard Guest Lecture: Ali Samji
12 April 2017	Course review
28 April 2017	Final paper due by midnight via Blackboard