

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SCIENCE

Islam: Mystical, Mainstream and Extremists

PSY/IH/LP 504/704 CRP625/725 BIS 404(#4)

Instructor: Dr. Sharon G. Mijares

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Course Outline and Requirements:

Textbooks: Available via Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble or direct from publishers.

Sachiko Murata and William C. Chittick. (1994). *The Vision of Islam*

James Fadiman and Robert Frager. (1997). *Essential Sufism*

This class will be supported by images, sounds, and webliography to support the learning.

Course Content:

This course constitutes an introduction to the religion of Islam through the study of major religious ideas, movements, and figures prominent in the development of the tradition. The course addresses the various expressions within Islam, namely fundamentalist, moderate and mystical traditions. The course will move through three major phases: basic teachings of Islam, the articulation of the classical tradition, and contemporary developments. Discussion of major issues such as unity and diversity within Islam, Islamic government, the role of women, Muslims in America, and Islamic movements in the contemporary world will also be featured along with discussion on the role of Islam in current world events. *Some experiential practices will be included.*

Course Objectives:

- ◆ To familiarize students with basic beliefs and practices of Muslims.
- ◆ To acquaint students with the diversity of Muslims in regional, sectarian, and interpretive contexts.
- ◆ To give a basic understanding of the history and geography of the Muslim World.
- ◆ To provide understanding of the difference between fundamentalist, moderate and mystical Islam
- ◆ To enable students to comprehend and evaluate contemporary political and intellectual developments in Islam.

- ◆ As a writing intensive course, a further objective is to increase student's level of writing skills in terms of style, content, and argumentation through varied and frequent writing exercises. Students are allowed to resubmit improved and corrected versions of their written work after receiving critical input from the instructor.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course the student should be able to . . .

- Understand core principles of Islam
- Be familiar with the origins and development of Islam
- Recognize the difference between fundamentalism, moderate and mystical expressions
- Recognize the key influences in Islam
- Be familiar with various Sufi orders and beliefs

Course Requirements and Grading Policy

Specific guidelines will be provided for each assignment as well as study guides and term lists for the exams.

20 Mid-term Exam

20 Final Exam

20 2 paper assignments (These are relatively short, about 4 pages each). A yahoo group file will be available for these papers although your peers are also alerted that the a file has been posted.

15 3 Brief writing assignments based on the class readings and guidelines set out by the instructor. These will be evaluated out of 5 points each and will each count for 6% of the final class grade. These will be posted for peer reading and response.

25 *Participation in ongoing on-line discussions.

100 TOTAL

***Participation requirements:** The instructor will send the discussion assignments from our Yahoo group site on or before each Monday's session. Throughout the week students are expected to not only respond to the posted dialogue but are also to respond to at least two other student's responses. Your response to your peers should add to what has been said (as opposed to "that was nice" or some polite content that lacks academic rigor). Please include full reference for any quotes or information gathered from a paper, website, or book.

Grading Scale

I compute grades based on a point system. Each paper, exam and assignment is assigned a certain number of points. For each exercise you will receive a number out of the total points possible based on your performance. These will be totaled up at the end of the semester and a number grade out of 100 points will be the result. This will be converted to the final letter grade according to the scale below. All assignments

posted at the beginning of the week. Assignments are due by the end of the week in which they are given. Assignments will lose a point for every day they are late.

90 – 100 = A

80 - 89 = B

70 - 79 = C

60 – 69 = D

59 below = F

Readings and Assignment Schedule

Note* This schedule is tentative. The pace of a class is affected by the quality of student preparation and involvement with the material. Classes that ask more questions and discuss more will proceed through the material more slowly, but gather depth along the way.

Mondays 7/2, 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 7/30, 8/6, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27 & 9/3

Schedule of topics will vary at Instructor's discretion:

WEEK ONE:

Introduction to Course/Syllabus.	Read Introduction through
Issues Facing Muslims Today	p. 34 from Vision of Islam
The increasing rise of fundamentalism and the Shariah	Visit website (below)

Webliography assignment: <http://www.philosophy-religion.org/world/issues.htm>

WEEK TWO:

	Pre-Islamic Arabia	pp. 35-131 from
Prepare discussion points	Role of the Prophet in Muslim	Vision of Islam
	The Life of Muhammad	Read discussion paper
	The Five Pillars of Islam	from website
		VISIT LOCAL ISLAMIC CENTER

WEEK THREE:

	The Life of Muhammad (Continued)	pp. 132-202
1 page summary of issues	Companions of the Prophet	Vision of Islam
facing Muslims due	Piety and the basic tenets of <i>Islam</i>	Chanting Assignment
	The 99 Most Beautiful Names	

WEEK FOUR:

1 page response to a poem	Major Teachings of the Qur'an	pp. 202-235 Vision...
Due	Revelation and the Role of the Qur'an in	Read discussion paper

Muslim Life and Piety from website

WEEK FIVE:

1 page report on a Companion of the Prophet due

Themes of the Qur'an: Allah
The Human Condition
Prophecy and *Imam* (faith)
Women and Islam

pp. 236-294
Vision of Islam
Read discussion paper from website

WEEK SIX:

Writing Assignment #1

Qur'an (on Jews and Christians)
"Tawhid" and discussion
Introduction to Hadith study
Ihsan (doing what is beautiful)

pp. 295-246
Vision of Islam

WEEK SEVEN:

Writing Assignment #2 Discussion

Alchemy, and the Sufis
Interpretation of a hadith

Essential Sufism
pp. 1-126

WEEK EIGHT:

Sufi mystics, Ibn Al-Arabi, Al-Ghazzali,
Sufi poets and the path of Love

Review webiography for Sufi Tariqas (Orders).
Essential Sufism,
pp. 127-208

WEEK NINE:

Contemporary Sufis
Hazrat Inayat Khan
Bawa Muhayaddeen
Samuel L. Lewis

Essential Sufism
pp. 209-265
Webiography assignment
Read material sent by instructor

WEEK TEN

Final Exam

Note:

All assignments must be completed on time. Late papers will be accepted but points may be deducted. Plagiarized or missing assignments receive a “0”.

Essays: Each essay assignment is to be typed, double-spaced, and is to include paginated citations of texts used in support of each of your arguments and a bibliography of sources used.

I am willing to review rough drafts with you, since criticism and revision will improve the quality of work submitted for a grade.

Writing assignments and academic honesty. It is your responsibility to ensure that work you submit as your own is in fact your own, and that you properly acknowledge any sources from which you have taken ideas or phrasing.

Suggestions for Reading Assignments:

Read the selections assigned for each class session before the actual class. At first you may wish to quickly review the material so as to isolate the main issues.

When you do your own preparatory reading, take notes, highlighting the ideas that you find most important. Note ideas with which you disagree. If you have any questions, if there are concepts or terms that you don't understand, note them down and post them for group discussion.