This course explores the nature and diversity of Sufism by looking at the origins and development of Islamic spiritual thought and practices in history. The course will remain anchored by focusing on important personalities in the mystical traditions of Islam through their literature and poetry, devotional path and/or music.

Class will meet twice a week for 12 weeks: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30-8:15 p.m., beginning Tuesday January 20, 2015. Each of these twelve classes will be divided in two sessions: A) Lecture; B) Discussion of the required readings.

Course Objectives
1) Students should be able to find their way around in the major reference works on Sufism.
2) They are expected to gain an acquaintance with the ways classical Islamic spirituality developed, the historical and ideological contexts in which it evolved, its key figures and the main doctrines, schools or movements it crystallized into.
3) In reference to the classical period, they should also be able to have an informed opinion on modern Sufi developments and debates.
4) They should be able to benefit from the methodological approach adopted in these classes and apply them for their own studies and/or research projects.

Course Requirements
1) It is strongly recommended that the student arrive at the first class already having a general knowledge about the religion of Islam, as well as about the history and geography of Muslim peoples. They should also be able to find their way around in the major reference tools for Islamic Studies (Encyclopaedia of Islam, Index Islamicus…).
2) Attendance in class is required. If you know that you will be unable to attend a session please inform the professor in advance. Missing two classes will result in an automatic lowering of your final grade by 20%. Missing three or more classes will result in automatic failure of the course.

3) For each class of weeks 2-12, students shall submit a summary of the reading assignments and be ready to speak about them in class. Each student can skip any two weeks during that time for a total of 10 submissions. Here are the guidelines for these summaries:

- Approximately 2 pages (3 pages maximum)
- One modern study must be used in each summary
- Students must make copies of their summaries for all students in the class

4) A final research paper and a *viva voce*, as described below.

**The final grade will be based upon the following:**

1) Weekly summaries (25%) and class participation (25%).
2) A final research paper of approximately 10 pages* on a topic relating to the history, or to a doctrinal debate, or to a societal aspect, of classical Sufism. The topic should be chosen by the end of class VI in consultation with the Professor. This paper will be due by the end of class XII (30%).
3) A final *viva voce* exam discussing the course and its reading assignments, with an emphasis on the final research paper submitted (20%).

* All written work is to conform to the seminary writing guidelines, which can be found online at: [http://www.hartsem.edu/student/forms/researchpaperguide.pdf](http://www.hartsem.edu/student/forms/researchpaperguide.pdf). It must use the transliteration system given in class I. It must be run through a grammar and spell-check program or read by the writing tutor if necessary before submission. The Hartford Seminary Grading Guidelines will be the standard of evaluation for work in the course.

**IMPORTANT:** Plagiarism, the failure to give proper credit for the words and ideas of another person, whether published or unpublished, is strictly prohibited. All written material submitted by students must be their own original work; where the words and ideas of others are used they must be acknowledged. Credit will not be given for work containing plagiarism, and plagiarism can lead to failure of a course. Please see the Hartford Seminary Catalogue for the full plagiarism policy.

**General references**

*Encyclopaedia of Islam, Index Islamicus…*


CLASS SCHEDULE


General references:
Chapter 2: The Sacred Sources of Sufism, p. 32-57.

Reading assignments:
a. SCHIMMEL, Annemarie, Mystical dimensions of Islam — Chapter I: What is Sufism?, p. 3-22
c. Copy from the press, magazines, or internet, some article or video exploring the nature of Islamic spirituality, for presentation and discussion in class.

Class II: A: Tuesday Jan. 27. B: Thursday Jan. 29. FIRST DEVELOPMENTS

General references:

Reading assignments:

Class III: A: Tuesday Feb. 3. B: Thursday Feb. 5. AL-HALLÂJ

General references:
SMITH, Margaret, Rabî’a the Mystic and her Fellow-Saints in Islam. Being the Life and Teachings of Rabî’î a-al-‘Adawiyya al-Qaysiyya of Baṣra together with some Account of the Place of the Women Saints in Islam (Cambridge: Cambridge U.P., 1984), xxxv - 219 p.

Reading assignments:

General references:


**Reading assignments:**


Class V. A: Tuesday Feb. 17. B: Thursday Feb. 19. **AVICENNA, AL-GHAZĂLĪ**

General references:


**Reading assignments:**


General references:


**Reading assignments:**


Class VII. A: Tuesday March 3. B: Thursday March 5. **SEVEN DIMENSIONS, II: AESTHETICISM**

General references:


**Reading assignments:**


General references:


**Reading assignments:**


**OR**

c. ‘Umar KHÂYYÂM (d. 517/1123), *The Rubaiyat*. Translation by Edward FITZGERALD.

Class IX. A: Tuesday March 17. B: Thursday March 19. **SEVEN DIMENSIONS, V-VI: MUHAMMADAN PIETY IN PEACE AND WAR**

General references:


**Stations of the Righteous (Darâjat al-ṣâdiqîn) & The Stumblings of those Aspiring (Zalal al-fuqarâ’)**. Two Texts from


Reading assignments:


General references:


Reading assignments:


Class XI. A: Tuesday April 7. B: Thursday April 9. GOD’S WAYS IN TODAY’S WORLD

General references:


Burke, Omar Michael, Among the Dervishes, An account of travels in Asia and Africa, and four years studying the Dervishes, Sufis and Fakirs, by living among them (London: The Octagon Press, 1973), 203 p., 900-860-17-0.


Reading assignments:


Class XII. A: Tuesday April 21. B: Thursday April 23. **DEFINING SUFISM?**

General references:


Reading assignments:


OR

b2. SHIKŪH, Dārā (Prince), *Majma‘-ul-Bahrain, or The Mingling of the two Oceans*. Edited in the original Persian with English translation, notes and variants by M. Mahfuz-UL-HAQ (Kolkata: The Asiatic Society, 1929), p. **37-57**.