Reading Classical Islamic Texts (in Arabic):
Philosophy and Theology (TH-674)

This high level course offers an in-depth exploration of the philosophical and theological writings of some of the central thinkers of classical Islam: Abū Ma‘shar al-Balkhī, Abū l-Ḥasan al-Ash‘arī, Abū Bakr al-Rāzī, Ikhwān al-Ṣafā’, al-Fārābī, Avicenna, al-Ghazālī, Ibn Ṭufayl, Averroes. Key texts will be read in the original Arabic, translated orally, explained grammatically, commented on ideologically, and discussed, by the students as well as by the professor. A good knowledge of Classical Arabic is required to maximize the learning in this course. Bibliographical references will be provided.

Class will meet: ten mornings, from Monday July 11, 2016 to Friday July 22, 2016, 9 am – 1:30 pm.

Course Objectives
1) Students should have gained greater confidence in approaching, translating and discussing classical Islamic works in the original Arabic text.
2) They should be able to find their way around in the major works of masters of classical Islamic philosophy and theology.
3) They should be able to benefit from the methodological approaches 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 able to read Arabic and having a general knowledge about the religion of Islam, Islamic classical thought, and the history and culture of the Middle East.
2) Daily preparations and readings, class participation, final presentation.
3) Attendance in class is required. If you know that you will be unable to attend a class please inform the professor in advance. Missing two classes will result in an automatic lowering of your final grade by 30%. Missing three or more classes will result in automatic failure of the course.

The final grade will be based upon the following:
1) Active class participation (60%).
2) The presentation during Class X (July 22, 40%). Students fluent in Arabic shall join with weaker ones in groups of 2 or 3 individuals. Each group will be responsible for the written* & oral presentation, translation, commentary on, and discussion of an original Arabic text of Islamic classical philosophy or theology during the last class. This text should be chosen by the end of class V in consultation with the professor.
* 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 will lead to failure of a course. Please see the [Hartford Seminary Catalogue](http://philosophy.cua.edu/faculty/duart/bibliographical-guide.cfm) for the full plagiarism policy.

**General references**


**DRAUT, Thérèse-Anne, Brief Bibliographical Guide in Medieval Islamic Philosophy and Theology (1998-2014).**


**Class Schedule**

**I. Monday July 11. Abû Ma’shar al-Balkhî (d. 272/886)**

**General references:**


**Reading Assignment:**


**Arabic text:**

II. Tuesday July 12. Abū l-Hasan al-Ashʿarī (d. 324/935-6)

General references:


III. Wednesday July 13. Abū Bakr al-Rāzī (d. ± 323/935)

General references:


General references:


V. Friday July 15. Abū Naṣr al-Fārābī (d. 339/950)

General references:

VI. Monday July 18. Avicenna (d. 428/1037)

General references:


VII. Tuesday July 19. Abû Ḥāmid al-Ghazâlî (d. 505/1111)

General references:


VIII. Wednesday July 20. Ibn Ṭufayl (d. 581/1185-6)

General references:


IX. Thursday July 21. Averroes (d. 595/1198)

General references:


X. Friday July 22. Presentations