

Fall 2018
 Stony Brook University
 Department of Asian and Asian American Studies
 College of Arts and Sciences
AAS/PHI 472/572
Topics in Asian Philosophy: Islamic Thought in Asia
 MW 2:30-3:50 Frey 216

This course satisfies the DEC category J; SBC category HFA+

Course Instructor: William Chittick

Section: 01

Office Hours: MW 4-5, Humanities 1120

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Designed for upper-division students, this course presents in-depth study of a specific topic in an Asian philosophical tradition. Students are expected to demonstrate knowledge through mastery of native terms and concepts from that tradition. May be repeated as the topic changes.

Course Topic:

Love for wisdom, *philo-sophia*, was prominent among Muslim scholars in pre-modern times. Achieving wisdom demands a thorough understanding of the nature of the lover, which is to say that it requires a vision of human nature in the context of the entirety of reality. In order to bring out the manner in which Islamic thinkers dealt with the lover of wisdom, we will focus on Abd al-Rahman Jami (d. 1492), one of the most influential philosophers, poets, and theologians of the past five hundred years. He was the foremost exponent of the school of Ibn Arabi (d. 1240) in the Persianate lands of Islam (that is, from the Balkans through Central Asia and India into China and Indonesia). We will be looking specifically at his commentary on *The Flashes*, a short treatise on the metaphysics of love by Fakhr al-Din Iraqi (d. 1289).

Course Prerequisite: U3 or U4 status; two courses in PHI, in AAS or together

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

The course aims to help students gain the ability to think critically about human beliefs and practices while recognizing both the universality of philosophical thought across the globe and throughout history and the contextual specificity of Islam. Additional goals include sufficient familiarity with research methods to read primary and secondary literature on Islamic topics and to locate the discussions in their general and specific contexts; the ability to write essays on themes in philosophical thought; the ability to speak with some familiarity about the history, teachings, and practices of the Islamic intellectual tradition; an awareness of the importance and legitimacy of the different perspectives among philosophers, theologians, and Sufis; an appreciation of the commonalities and differences among religions generally.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance and Make Up Policy

Attendance is required, but no record will be kept. No excuses will be accepted for missing exams except those sanctioned by university policy. Quizzes will not be announced and cannot be made up. Papers must be submitted on time.

Description and schedule of Required Readings and/or Assignments.

Iraqi, *The Flashes*. Translated by Chittick

Jami, *The Rays of the Flashes*. Translated by Chittick

There will be three short essays (3-5 pp.) and one longish paper (8-10 pp.). Your goal in each paper is to explain what the author is trying to say in your own words, not someone else's words. Do not use any source of information other than the assigned readings and the lectures, unless approved by the instructor. Do not use the internet. Follow correct formatting procedures, including **pagination**. Get help from the Writing Center if you are not sure about proper form.

Exams

There will be occasional quizzes and a final.

GRADING:

Quizzes	10%
Essays	45%
Paper	25%
Final	20%

MEETING SCHEDULE

Aug. 27-29. Jami and Ibn Arabi

Sept. 5-12. *The Flashes*

Sept. 12. First essay.

Sept. 26-Oct. 15. *The Rays of the Flashes*

Oct. 15. Second essay.

Oct.17-Nov. 17. *The Rays of the Flashes*

Nov. 19. Third essay.

Dec. 12: Paper & Final Examination (5:30-8:00 PM, in the classroom)

CLASS PROTOCOL

No electronic devices during classes.

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS) STATEMENT:

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, room128, (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Support Services. For procedures and information go to the following website: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/fire/disabilities>]

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT:

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity,

including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/>

CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT:

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures.