

NES/HIST/RELI 444
Spring 2009
Prof. Scott Lucas
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Office Hours: F: 9:30-11:30
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Islamic Mysticism
Department of Near Eastern Studies

One of the most significant facets of Islamic civilization is the mystical tradition called Sufism. This course analyzes fundamental Sufi concepts, such as sainthood and the mystical stations, the teachings and writings of famous Sufi individuals, such as Ibn 'Arabi and Rumi, and the roles of Sufis in classical Islamic society in the Middle East and South Asia. Prerequisite: some prior coursework in Islam or Near Eastern history.

Books for purchase:

Ernst, Carl and Lawrence, Bruce. *Sufi Martyrs of Love* (2002)
Rumi. *Signs of the Unseen*. Translated by Wheeler Thackston (1999)
Sells, Michael. *Early Islamic Mysticism: Sufi, Qur'an, Mi'raj, Poetic and Theological Writings* (1996)
Electronic Reserve Readings (ER)

Requirements:

Three 4-5 page papers (60%), one 10-12 page final paper (30%), class participation (10%)

Jan. 15: Introduction: What is Sufism?
Early Islamic Mysticism, pp. 11-26.

PART I: Sufi Concepts & Practices

Jan. 20: The 99 Names of God
ER: al-Ghazali, *The Ninety-nine Names of God*, pp. 30-33, 49-57, 116-19.
ER: M.A.S. Abdel Haleem, *The Qur'an: A new translation*. Suras 2:255, 24:35-8, 59:18-24, 112.

Jan. 22: Muhammad & the Muhammadan Light
Early Islamic Mysticism, pp. 89-96.
ER: al-Busiri, "The Mantle of the Prophet."

Jan. 27: Wali: Friend or Saint?
ER: "Saints and Sainthood" in Carl Ernst, *The Shambhala Guide to Sufism* (1997), pp. 58-80.

Jan. 29: Prayer
ER: "Prayer" in *Medieval Islamic Civilization: An Encyclopedia* (2006).
ER: "The Calling Down of Blessing: The Blessing of the Prophet" and "The Calling Down of Blessing: Abraham and all the Prophets" in Constance Padwick, *Muslim Devotions* (1996 [1961]), pp. 152-72.

ER: “Two Shadhili Litanies”

Feb. 3 & 5: States & Stations: Sarraj’s “Seven Stations” and Qushayri’s *Risala Early Islamic Mysticism*, pp. 196-211 & 97-150.

PAPER #1 DUE IN FEB. 5

PART II: Individuals

Feb. 10: Rabi‘a & Abu Yazid al-Bistami
Early Islamic Mysticism, pp. 151-70 & 212-50.

Feb. 13: Junayd & Hallaj
Early Islamic Mysticism, pp. 251-80.

Feb. 17: al-Ghazali: Spiritual autobiography
ER: al-Ghazali, “The Deliverance from Error” (excerpts).

Feb. 19: ‘Abd al-Qadir al-Jilani
ER: al-Jilani: *Revelations of the Unseen*, Discourses 6, 7, 18, 32, 42, 43, 66, 69, 75, 78.
ER: “Biography of a Saint.”

Feb. 24 & Feb. 26: Ibn ‘Arabi’s life
Claude Addas, *The Quest for Red Sulphur* (1993), pp. 17-43, 153-160, 276-83.

March 3 & 5: Ibn ‘Arabi’s metaphysics
ER: “The Wisdom of Light in the Word of Joseph” in Ibn ‘Arabi, *Bezels of Wisdom*, translated by R. W. J. Austin.
ER: William Chittick, *Imaginal Worlds*, pp. 15-29

PAPER #2 DUE IN CLASS

March 10: Rumi’s life and love poems
ER: Franklin Lewis, *Rumi: Past Present, East West*, pp. 1-37 and 345-57

March 12: Rumi: The *Masnavi*
ER: “How a Hare Killed a Tyrannical Lion” in Jalal al-Din Rumi, *The Masnavi*, Book 1, translated by Jawid Mojaddedi, pp. 66-87.

March 17 & 19: SPRING BREAK

March 24 & 26: Rumi’s Discourses
Class presentations of discourses in *Signs of the Unseen*

March 31 & April 2: Hamza Fansuri
ER: *The Poems of Hamza Fansuri* (excerpts)

PART III: Sufis in Society

April 7: Sufi Women

ER: Rkia Cornell, *Early Sufi Women* (excerpts)

PAPER #3 DUE IN CLASS

April 9: Sufi Orders

Sufi Martyrs of Love, pp. 1-26.

ER: "Ritual and Ceremony" in J. Spencer Trimingham, *The Sufi Orders in Islam*, pp. 194-217.

April 14-16: The Chishti Order of South Asia

Sufi Martyrs of Love, pp. 27-46, 64-104.

April 21-23: Sufi Reactions to European Colonialism: Resistance & Accommodation

ER: "The Challenge of European Anti-Sufism" in Elizabeth Sirriyeh, *Sufis and Anti-Sufis* (1999), pp. 26-53.

ER: Louis Brenner, "Concepts of *Tariqa* in West Africa: The Case of the Qadiriyya," in *Charisma and Brotherhood in African Islam* (1988), pp. 33-52.

April 28-30: Sufism in the Modern Period & Polemics against the Sufis

Sufi Martyrs of Love, pp. 129-146.

ER: "Ibn Taymiyya's Formidable Challenge" in Alexander, Knysh, *Ibn 'Arabi in the Later Islamic Tradition* (1999), pp. 87-111.

May 5: Concluding Reflections

THE FINAL EXAM PAPER IS DUE TUESDAY MAY 12 BY 3PM