

NES/HIST 544
Spring 2009
Prof. Scott Lucas
sclucas@email.arizona.edu

F: 2:30-5PM Marshall 451
Office Hours: F: 9:30-11:30
Marshall 446, Phone: 626-9562

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 the Sufi concept of sainthood, Sufi manuals, and the teachings and writings of famous Sufi individuals, such as Ghazali, Ibn 'Arabi and Rumi. It also introduces multiple major Sufi Orders and explores the impacts of European colonialism upon this Islamic tradition.

Books for purchase:

Addas, Claude. *Quest for Red Sulphur: The Life of Ibn 'Arabi* (1993)
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) [EIM]
Electronic Reserve Readings (ER)

Requirements:

Two 5-7 page papers (40%), one 20-25 page research paper (45%), class participation (15%)

NOTE: Readings marked with ** are required for all students.

(A Useful Website for purchasing Sufi Books: <http://www.fonsvita.com/MG1.html>)

Jan. 16: Introduction to Sufism

- **Sells, EIM, pp. 11-74.
- **Paul Heck, "Sufism—What is it Exactly?" *Religion Compass*, 1 (2007): 148-64.
- Annemarie Schimmel, *Mystical Dimensions of Islam* (1975), pp. 3-22.

PART I: Sufi Concepts & Practices

Jan. 23: Wali (1): Friend or Saint?

- ** Vincent Cornell, *Realm of the Saint* (1998), pp. xvii-xliv, 3-31, 196-229.
- ** al-Busiri, "The Mantle of the Prophet"
- Simon Digby, "The Sufi *Shaykh* and the Sultan: A Conflict of Claims to Authority in Medieval India," *Iran*, 28 (1990): 71-81.
- Ahmet Karamustafa, *God's Unruly Friends* (1994).
- Bernd Radtke & John O'Kane, *The Concept of Sainthood in Early Islamic Mysticism: Two Works by al-Hakim al-Tirmidhi* (1996).

William Chittick, "The Perfect Man as the Prototype of the Self in the Sufism of Jami," *Studia Islamica*, 49 (1979): 135-58.

Jan. 30: Wali (2): Biographical Dictionaries

**Sells, EIM, pp. 151-70.

**ER: Rkia Cornell, *Early Sufi Women* (1999).

**Jawid Mojaddedi, *The Biographical Tradition in Sufism* (2001), pp. 1-5; 9-39.

Vincent Cornell, *Realm of the Saint*, pp. 63-120.

Abu Nu'aym al-Isbahani, *Hilyat al-awliya' wa-tabaqat al-asfiya'*, 10 vols. (Arabic).

Feb. 6: Sufi Manuals

**Sells, EIM, 97-150; 196-211.

Al-Qushayri, *al-Qushayri's Epistle on Sufism*, trans. Alexander Knysh (2007).

Hujwiri, 'Ali b. 'Uthman, *The "Kashf al-Mahjub," the Oldest Persian Treatise on Sufism by al-Hujwiri*, trans. R.A. Nicholson (1911; reprinted 1959).

Abu Talib al-Makki, *Qut al-qulub* (Arabic).

Al-Ghazali, *Ihya' 'ulum al-din* (Arabic; partial English translations).

Shihab al-Din al-Suhrawardi, *'Awarif al-ma'arif* (Arabic).

PAPER #1 DUE IN CLASS 2/6

PART II: Individual Masters

Feb. 13: Four Early Masters: al-Muhasibi, al-Bistami, al-Junayd, al-Hallaj

**Sells, EIM, 171-95; 212-80.

Margaret Smith, *An Early Mystic of Baghdad: A Study of the Life and Teaching of Harith b. Asad al-Muhasibi A.D. 781-A.D. 857* (1935).

'Ali 'Abd al-Qadir, *The Life, Personality, and Writings of al-Junayd* (1962)

Louis Massignon, *The passion of Al-Hallaj: mystic and martyr of Islam*; trans. and ed. by Herbert Mason (1994).

Feb. 20: Abu Hamid al-Ghazali

**ER: "Deliverance from Error"

**Ebrahim Moosa, *Ghazali & the Poetics of Imagination* (2005), pp. 33-62.

Mohamed Sherif, *Ghazali's Theory of Virtue* (1975).

Nabih Amin Faris, *The book of knowledge, being a translation with notes of the Kitab al-'ilm of al-Ghazzali's Ihya' 'ulum al-din* (1962).

al-Ghazali, *The Ninety-nine Beautiful Names of God*, trans. David Burrell & Nazih Daher (1995).

al-Ghazali, *The Niche of Lights*, trans. David Buchman (1998).

<http://www.ghazali.org/>

Feb. 27: Ibn 'Arabi (1)

**Claude Addas, *The Quest for Red Sulphur*.

March 6: Ibn 'Arabi (2)

- **ER: Ibn 'Arabi, "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.
- William Chittick, *The Self Disclosure of God: Principles of Ibn 'Arabi's Cosmology* (1998).
- Ibn 'Arabi, *Divine Sayings: The Mishkat al-Anwar of Ibn 'Arabi*, trans. Stephen Hirtenstein and Martin Notcutt (2004).
- Ibn 'Arabi, *The Tarjuman al-Ashwaq: A Collection of Mystical Odes*, trans. R.A. Nicholson (1978 [1911]).

PAPER # 2 DUE IN CLASS 3/6

March 13: Jalal al-Din Rumi

- **Rumi, *Signs of the Unseen*, trans. by Wheeler Thackston.
- Franklin Lewis, *Rumi: Past Present, East West* (2000).
- Translations of the *Masnawi*:
- R.A. Nicholson (1925-40): Persian text, English translation, and notes (8 vols.).
- Jawid Mojaddedi (2004-): English translation in verse (2 vols. to date).

March 20: SPRING BREAK

March 27: Suhrawari & Mulla Sadra

- ** Hossein Ziai, "Shihab al-Din Suhrawardi: founder of the Illuminationist school," in *History of Islamic Philosophy*, ed. Seyyed Hossein Nasr and Oliver Leaman (1996), 1:434-64.
- ** Seyyed Hossein Nasr, "Mulla Sadra: his teachings," in *History of Islamic Philosophy* (1996), 1:643-62.
- Sajjad Rizvi, "Reconsidering the Life of Mulla Sadra Shirazi (d. 1641): Notes Towards an Intellectual Biography," *Iran*, 40 (2002): 181-201.
- James Morris, *The Wisdom of the Throne: An introduction to the philosophy of Mulla Sadra* (1981).
- Fazlur Rahman, *The Philosophy of Mulla Sadra* (1975).
- Suhrawardi, *The Philosophy of Illumination*, trans. John Walbridge and Hossein Ziai (1999).

RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC & BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE 3/27

Part III: Sufi Orders

April 3: The Chishti Order

- **Ernst & Lawrence, *Sufi Martyrs of Love*.
- Richard Eaton, "The Political and Religious Authority of the Shrine of Baba Farid," in *Essays on Islam and Indian History* (2000), pp. 203-24.
- Nizam al-Din Awliya, *Morals for the Heart*, trans. Bruce Lawrence (1991).

April 10: The Shadhiliya Order

**Ibn al-Sabbagh, *The Mystical Teachings of al-Shadhili*, trans. Elmer Douglas (1993), pp. 61-78; 109-27.

** Scott Kugle, *Rebel between spirit and law: Ahmad Zarruq, sainthood, and authority in Islam* (2006), pp. 1-26.

Ibn 'Ata' Allah, *The Book of Wisdom*, trans. Victor Danner (1978).

Ibn 'Ata' Allah, *The Key to Salvation*, trans. Mary Ann Khoury Danner (1996).

April 17: Sufism in Colonial Africa

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

**Jamil Abun-Nasr, *The Tijaniyya: A Sufi Order in the Modern World* (1965), pp. 27-57.

Knut Vikor, *Sufi and Scholar on the Desert Edge: Muhammad b. 'Ali Sanusi and his Brotherhood* (1995).

Michel Chodkiewicz, *The Spiritual Writings of Amir 'Abd al-Qadir* (1995).

Khadim Mback, *Sufism and Religious Brotherhoods in Senegal* (2005), pp. 15-73.

Scott Reese, *Renewers of the Age: Holy Men and Social Discourse in Colonial Benaadir* (2008).

April 24: Sufism in the Modern Period

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

** Michael Gilson, "Saint's Day," in *Saint and Sufi in Modern Egypt* (1973), pp. 47-64.

Valerie Hoffman, *Sufism, Mystics, and Saints in Modern Egypt* (1995).

Matthijs van den Bos, *Mystic Regimes: Sufism and the State in Iran, from the late Qajar Era to the Islamic Republic* (2002).

Frederick de Jong & Bernd Radtke (eds.), *Islamic Mysticism Contested* (1999).

May 1: Student Research Paper Presentations

THE FINAL RESEARCH PAPER IS DUE FRIDAY MAY 8.