

**California State University Fullerton**  
**Comparative Religion Department**

**CPRL 371 – History and Dev. Of Islamic Thought: The Beginning to 1258.**  
**Unit: 3.0**

Term: Fall 2013

Professor: Zakyi Ibrahim

Day and Time: MoWe 11:30- 12:45 pm

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Office hrs: MW 1-2; Online: MW 2- 2:30; or by appointment. Phone: 657-278-8241

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**CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

Islamic theology, law, culture, and spirituality up to the close of the classical period in 1258. Interpretation of the Qur'an, formation of Hadith literature, development of Islamic law, divisions within Islam, rise of Mysticism, contributions to science and art.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

Over the period of 1400 years, Islam, as a religion, came to embody some sophisticated genres of thought. This thought consists of diverse disciplines that emanated gradually with the birth of Islam. With the inception of the Qur'an and the collected sayings and actions of the Prophet Muhammad as the foundation, Islamic thought is perceived to encompass the exegetical sources of both the Qur'an and the Hadith, law and jurisprudence, systematic and dogmatic theology, philosophy and Mysticism. This course traces the history and the development of this array of thought from its rudimentary forms in the early seventh century (610 CE) to its height of sophistication in the thirteenth century (1258 CE).

**GENERAL EDUCATION:**

This course fulfills GE C.3 Explorations in the Humanities *and* GE Z Cultural Diversity. (If you wish to pursue a minor in Religious Studies or a minor in Islamic Studies, you can “double count” this course for GE and the minor – up to nine units of GE courses from one department may be used to meet minor requirements. If you are a major in Religious Studies, this class counts as one course toward your upper division “Development of Western Religious Thought” requirement, but cannot count for GE.)

**PREREQUISITE:**

Completion of the General Education area C2 Introduction to Humanities.

## **GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING GOALS**

Learning Goals for GE area C2 Introduction to Humanities (UPS 411.201 6/20/11):

1. Understand broad, unifying themes from cross-disciplinary perspectives in the humanities.
2. Understand the relevance of the humanities for the thoughtful consideration of complex contemporary problems.
3. Appreciate the complex relationship and interaction between the humanities and other fields of learning, including the natural sciences, social sciences, and arts.

Learning Goals for GE area Z Cultural Diversity (UPS 411.201 6/20/11):

1. Demonstrate understanding that culture is socially constructed and fundamental to social interaction.
2. Demonstrate appreciation of the complex relationships that various factors such as gender, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, religion, and class bring to a discussion of society and culture.
3. Demonstrate understanding that because we live in an inter-connected world, we need to understand the diversity and relationships within and among cultures.
4. Recognize and evaluate how one's cultural history affects one's sense of self and relationship to others.

## **DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE RELIGION LEARNING GOALS AND OUTCOMES**

- Learning Goal: Students possess the ability to perform research and interpret materials related to the study of religion.
  - Outcome 1: Students can analyze written materials related to the study of religion.
  - Outcome 2: Students have acquired information literacy in the study of religion.
- Learning Goal: Students can effectively communicate in written and spoken mediums.
  - Outcome 3: Students are able to write well-organized critical and analytical research papers related to the study of religion.
  - Outcome 4: Students are able to speak clearly and effectively using relevant and adequate supporting evidence. *Not applied to this course.*
- Learning Goal: Students can demonstrate an understanding of the beliefs, rituals, texts, and figures related to a variety of religious traditions.
  - Outcome 5: Students can describe the basic teachings and practices of major religious traditions and can compare and contrast the principal similarities and differences between them.
  - Outcome 6: Students are able to identify the history and development of specific religions and their contemporary relevance.
  - Outcome 7: Students can compare key theories and theorists in the study of religion. *Not applied to this course.*
  - Outcome 8: Students can interpret key thinkers and figures within religious traditions.

## **SPECIFIC LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1. To facilitate an insight into the intricacies and diversity of Islamic thought.
2. To expose students to the intellectual output emanating from the different readings of the basic sources of Islam.
3. To inculcate in the students a sense of appreciation for the intellectual contribution of Muslims.
4. To prepare the students and provide them with more tools for further research about Islam and Muslims.
5. To familiarize students to some of the important Western sources on Islam.
6. To make students aware of the relationship between some aspects of Islamic thought and Western sciences.

## **PERSONAL PROMISES (The 7 Ps):**

In addition to the GE learning goals and the specific learning objectives, I will aspire to meeting these personal teaching goals and promises, based on which I hope to be evaluated:

- - I will prepare well for every class
- - I will always begin class on time
- - I will organize the class well
- - I will communicate the material clearly
- - I will answer any question effectively
- - I will be helpful to all student
- - I will be the Professor but friendly to all.

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

Although this course is NOT listed as a Hybrid course, up to 20% of classes may be converted to Web-instructions rather than in-class sessions. This is only a contingency measure in case of any flu out-break or I have to attend professional conferences and classes would have to be cancelled. If I determine that it is not appropriate to hold class due to concern over contacting such as “Swine Flu” or for attending a conference, I will convert a few classes to web-instruction by placing class material on TITANIum for you to review and report on as instructed.

## **READINGS: (Books are available either at:**

- (1) **Little Professor Book Center (LPB) (714) 996-3133; address: 725 N. Placentia Avenue;**  
(2) **TITANium, under “course documents.”**

Required:

1. Saeed, Abdullah. *Islamic Thought: An Introduction*. London & NY: Routledge, 2007.
2. Elias, Jamal J. *Islam*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall Inc., 1999.

Recommended:

3. Fakhry, Majid. *A History of Islamic Philosophy*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2004.
4. Other articles

### **ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION**

1. Although this is a lecture class, questions will be asked constantly to provoke class discussions. Therefore, students are advised to do their readings and actively participate in such discussions. Unquantifiable marks will be awarded to students who make informed and intelligent contributions to class discussions.

2. **Minor Book review: Due in class on Sep. 11, 2013** (Book is on TITANium). In the first two weeks, each student must read (Elias, Jamal J. *Islam*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall Inc., 1999). In the third week, students are required to provide two (2) pages of report consisting of, at least, two (2) detailed and interesting points that have been learned (refer to their pages). (Sample book reviews are put on TITANium under “course documents”).

3. **Major Book review: Due on Nov. 13, 2012**

Each student must submit a review of a book of their choice to be approved by me. The review must be 5 pages (typed, double spaced text, 1250 words; criticism and observation included: sample review will be provided later in the class). Papers will be evaluated **according to quality of writing, expression and excellent observations.**

4. There will be two exams: **mid-term and final.**

5. There will also be minor assignments (observations from readings; analysis of internet contents on specific topics; and quizzes) to go along with class participation.

### **DUE DATES:**

*NO extra credit.* A total of 200 points will be available for assessment based upon the following:

20 points:	Minor Book Review	(10%)	<b><u>Sep. 11, 2013</u></b>
40 points:	Mid-Term Exam	(20%)	<b><u>Oct. 9, 2013</u></b>
40 points:	Major Book Review	(20%)	<b><u>Nov. 13, 2013</u></b>
20 points:	Class Participation	(10%)	
20 points:	Minor assignments	(10%)	
60 points:	Final Exam	(30%)	<b><u>Dec. 20, 2013 (12- 1:50 pm)</u></b>

**GRADING SCALE (using plus-minus +/- style)**

A+	97.0-100%	194- 200 points
A	93.0-96.9%	186- 193 points
A-	90.0-92.9%	180- 185 points
B+	87.0-89.9%	174- 179 points
B	83.0-86.9%	166- 173 points
B-	80.0-82.9%	160- 165 points
C+	77.0-79.9%	154- 159 points
C	73.0-76.9%	146- 153 points
C-	70.0-72.9%	140- 145 points
D+	67.0-69.9%	134- 139 points
D	60.0-66.9%	120- 133 points (no D-)
F	0-59.9%	0- 119 points

**NOTES:**

1. Students are advised to:
  - a. be punctual and regular in class attendance;
    - Attendance is part of class participation.
    - Two or more Absences may lower the final grade.
  - b. avoid being late and leaving early (grades may be affected).
  - c. avoid any type of disturbance and stop making any form of noise during class (cell phone should be turned off);
  - d. only use LAPTOPS strictly for taking notes, so there is ABSOLUTELY NO web surfing.
  - e. submit HARDCOPIES of any assignment to me on time; and upload it to Turnitin on the TITANium by 9: 00 pm of the due date. (this is to ensure that

your paper is free of plagiarism). Failure to submit papers to “Turnitin” will result in zero (0) marks.

2. It is the student’s responsibility to retain a photocopy or computer copy of ALL assignments submitted for grading; in the event of lost or theft, a duplicate copy is required.
3. Students are advised to read the 2013/2014 *Catalog* for the rules and policies regarding **registration, Voluntary Withdrawals, Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals**. Make sure you pay special attention to them and understand them well.
4. Please note that registering in this course commits you to the date and time of the course final examination. If you are aware of possible conflicts with that date, please see me immediately during the first week of the course, in case you need to register in another course to accommodate the conflict. For appeals for deferred exams, please see the Calendar.
5. Late assignment and exams penalties: Except with a legitimate excuse, a day late equals a letter grade lower (eg., from A to A-; or from B+ to B). No make-up exam will be given except on 24 hours notice for a legitimate excuse.
6. **SPECIAL NEEDS**: During the first week of classes, inform me of any disabilities or special needs that you have that may require special arrangements. Students with disabilities need to document their disability at the Disabled Support Services office in UH 101.

7. **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**:

“Academic dishonesty includes such things as cheating, inventing false information or citations, plagiarism, and helping someone else commit an act of academic dishonesty” (UPS 300.021).

Cheating: “Cheating is defined as the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for work by the use of any dishonest, deceptive, fraudulent, or unauthorized means. Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: using notes or aides or the help of other students on tests and examinations in ways other than those expressly permitted by the instructor” (UPS 300.021).

Plagiarism: “Plagiarism is defined as the act of taking the work of another and offering it as one’s own without giving credit to that source. When sources are used in a paper, acknowledgement of the original author or source must be made through appropriate references and, if directly quoted, quotation marks or indentations must be used” (UPS 300.021).

Penalties: The minimum penalty for cheating on an examination or for plagiarism will be an “F” on the assignment (zero points), without the possibility to re-do the work. In addition, the final course grade will be no higher than a “C” regardless of the final point total. Depending upon the severity of the offense, a final course grade of “F” may be assigned. In all cases the Dean of Students Office, Judicial Affairs will be

notified. Plagiarism is a serious issue. It is the student's responsibility to be clear of the meaning of plagiarism. See the "Student Guide to Avoiding Plagiarism at <http://www.fullerton.edu/deanofstudents/judicial/Plagiarism.htm>

**Pollak Library policy for online instruction students**

<http://www.library.fullerton.edu/content/documents/Guidelines-OnlineInstruction-30Aug12.pdf>

**Emergency Procedures:**

[http://www.fullerton.edu/emergencypreparedness/ep\\_students.html](http://www.fullerton.edu/emergencypreparedness/ep_students.html)

**COURSE OUTLINE (NB: All topics and videos may not be covered)**

Week 1. Aug. 26-28

Introduction,

Transmission of Religious Knowledge and Islamic Thought

- Early Transmission of Religious Knowledge
- Political and Religious tensions and the Emergence of Key Trends
- Growth and dissemination of Islamic Knowledge

(Saeed, pp. 1-12)

Week 2. Sep. 2-4 (Sept. 2: No classes; Labor day)

The Qur'an: The primary foundation Text

- The Qur'an as Revelation
- The Compilation of the Qur'an
- The Structure of the Qur'an

(Saeed, pp. 15- 20)

**Video**

Week 3. Sep. 9-11

The Qur'an: The primary foundation Text (continued)

- The Major Themes of the Qur'an
- The Qur'an as a Source of Law
- How to Understand and Interpret the Qur'an

(Saeed, pp. 21-29)

### **Discussion**

## **Minor Book Review DUE: Sep. 11, 2013**

Week 4. Sep. 16-18

The Sunna of the Prophet

- Anatomy of Hadith
- Hadith Qudsi
- Hadith: Standard Muslim View
- Preservation and Collection
- Development of Hadith Criticism
- Grading of Hadith
- Shi'a Conception of Hadith

(Saeed, pp. 33- 39)

Week 5. Sep. 23-25

Legal Thought

- Shari'a and Fiqh
- Early Development of Islamic Law
- Sources of Islamic Law
- Examples of other Principles of Islamic Law

(Saeed, pp. 43- 50)

Week 6. Sept. 30- Oct. 2

Legal Thought (continued)

- Schools of Law and their Consolidation
- Ijtihad and the Construction of Islamic Law
- The Historical Experience
- Renewal of Ijtihad

(Saeed, pp. 50- 54)

### **Video & Discussion**

Week 7. Oct. 7- 9

Theological Thought:

- The Development of Kalam
- Early Theological Debates: The Political Context



(Saeed, pp. 60- 66)

## **Mid-term Exam: October 9, 2013**

Week 8. Oct. 14-16

Theological Thought:

- The Mu‘tazila
- Abbasids and the Emergence of Kalam
- Mu‘tazilis versus Traditionists
- Key Theological Positions of the Mu‘tazila

(Saeed, pp. 60- 66)

Week 9. Oct. 21-23

Theological Thought:

- Ash‘ari and His School of Theology
- Ash‘ari Theological Beliefs
- Maturidi School of Theology
- Imami Shi‘i Theology
- Gradual Decline of Kalam

(Saeed, pp. 67-71)

Week 10. Oct. 28-30

Mystical Thought: Sufism

- Early Development of Sufism
- Development of Sufi Orders
- The Sufi Path
- Sufi Orders
- Critique of Sufis and Sufism

(Saeed, pp. 74-83)

**Video**

Week 11. Nov. 4- 6

Artistic Expression

- Islamic art and Artistic representation
- Decoration and Calligraphy
- Representation, Images and Idols
- Aspects of decoration in Islamic art
- Music and Singing

- Mosques and Architecture

(Saeed, pp. 85- 92)

Week 12. Nov. 11-13 (Nov 11: No classes; Veterans Day)

Philosophical Thought

- Greek and Roman Philosophy
- Near Eastern Philosophy
- Indian and Persian Philosophy
- Muslim Philosophy
- Muslim Philosophical Trends
- Great Muslim Philosophers
- Al-Kindi
- Al-Farabi

(Saeed, pp. 93-100)

### **Major Book Review DUE: November 13, 2013**

Week 13. Nov. 18- 20

Philosophical Thought

- Ibn Sina
- Ibn Tufayl
- Al-Ghazali
- Ibn Rushd
- Mulla Sadra

(Saeed, pp. 100- 107)

### **Video & Discussion**

## **Nov. 25- Dec 1. (Fall Recess: No Classes)**

Week 14. Dec. 2- 4

Political Thought

- The Historical context
- Debates on Imamate and Leadership
- Kharijjs
- Shi'a: Twelver (Imami) Shi'ism

(Saeed, pp. 113-118)

Week 15. Dec. 9-11

Political Thought

- Sunnis

- Separation of Religion and Politics

(Saeed, pp. 119-123)

**FINAL EXAMS: Friday Dec. 20, 2013 (12- 1:50 pm)**