EMT3610/6610HS Religious Thought and Spirituality in Islam

General Information
Instructor: Nevin Reda El-Tahry
E-mail: nevin.el.tahry@utoronto.ca
Office Hours: R 11:00 am –12:00 noon
Office: 215
Class time: R 9:00 am – 11:00 am
Classroom: 108

Course Description
This is a historical and topical survey of the origins and development of Islamic religious practices and mysticism. The course is primarily concerned with the growth of mystical tradition in Islam, the rise of asceticism, the early forms of personal piety that culminated into emphasis over mystical dimensions of Islamic religious experience and practice. The course will examine the rise of Sufi orders, the systematization of Sufi teaching and the evolution of theosophical dimensions of mysticism, and finally, the contribution of Sufism in the Islamic arts and literatures. Lectures, readings and class discussions.

Annotated bibliography: 25%, oral presentation: 15%, project (research paper): 45%, class participation: 15%.

Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the course, students are expected to:
Religious Faith and Heritage
• Demonstrate knowledge of religious heritage, and articulate clearly their own theological positions (as related to pastoral practices).
• Interpret scripture and religious texts using a variety of methods, sources, and norms.
• Identify and respect the diversity of theological viewpoints and practices within their religious tradition.

Culture and Context
• Give evidence of critical self-awareness with regard to their own and other faith perspectives and practices of educational ministry.

Spiritual/Vocational Formation
• Display capacity for self-reflexive and spiritual practices within communities of faith.

Ability with Scholarly Tools and Skills
• Demonstrate competence in the use of a library and in the construction of an annotated bibliography
• Demonstrate familiarity with pertinent web-based resources and skills.
• Demonstrate competence in the following skills:
  ▪ Clear and effective communication in both oral and written forms;
  ▪ The construction of a logical argument;
- The making of informed judgments on complex issues;
- The use of standard conventions of style for scholarly writing.
- Give evidence of an understanding of the nature and processes of research.

**Course Materials**

**Textbooks:**


**Additional Bibliography:**

23. ——. “Was the Gate of Ijtihad Closed?” International Journal of Middle East Studies 16, no. 3 (1984), pp. 3-41.
64. —. *Women, the Recited Qur'an, and Islamic Music in Indonesia*. Berkeley: University of California Press, c2010.


89. ——. “Islam and Buddhism Relations from Balkh to Bangkok and Tokyo,” *The Muslim World* 100, no. 2 - 3 (2010), pp. 177-186.

**Evaluation and Assignments**

*Each student should know from the outset that this course requires daily reading, both written and oral assignments, and regular class participation. More than two unexcused absences will negatively affect the student’s grade. Any student with more than four unexcused absences will receive an automatic failing grade, without possibility of supplemental examination.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>15 %</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>25 %</td>
<td>Feb. 16 @ 9:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>45 %</td>
<td>March 30 @ 9:00 am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All essays and assignments must be handed in on time. Penalty for late assignments is 2% reduction in mark per day of lateness. Assignments will not be accepted after one week of the due date. Academic accommodation will only be considered when appropriate documentation (an official U of T medical certificate) is provided within ONE week of the due date. At all time,
students are expected to do their own work. Plagiarism--to represent as one’s own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work—is a serious academic offense and will not be tolerated. Students who plagiarize run the risk of suspension and other sanctions. For the definition of “academic work,” tribunal procedures, and more, see http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm. See also http://www.socialwork.utoronto.ca/students/policy/plagiarism.htm. For advice on academic writing, go to http://www.writing.utoronto.ca. If you wish to book an appointment with a writing instructor for individual help, go to http://www.vic.utoronto.ca/students/tutorialservices/Writing_Centre.htm. Make sure you book your appointment as early as possible. Advanced degree students in a conjoint degree program are encouraged to use http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/currentstudents/Pages/English-Language-and-Writing-Support.aspx.

a. **Attendance and Class Participation (15%)**
   Attendance is mandatory. More than two unexcused absences will negatively affect a student’s grade. More than four absences without proper documentation (an official U of T medical certificate provided within one week of the absence) will receive an automatic FZ. Students are expected to attend class and to come prepared. You should expect to devote 2-3 hours outside of class for every hour of classroom instruction. Use this time to prepare the required readings and primary texts in advance. Readings are listed in order of priority in the schedule. Always be ready to provide a brief summary of each reading, list the main points and explain how the readings relate to one another.

b. **Topic Presentation (15%)**
   This assignment is an oral presentation on a topic that will be assigned on the first day of class. Topics will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, with doctoral students having first choice. Students are expected to speak for 15 minutes and to respond to student’s questions and comments after the presentation. They should have a 1-2 page handout for the class in point form. This presentation will count as 15% of their final grade. Presentation dates will be determined on the first day of class.

c. **Annotated Bibliography (25%)**
   This assignment consists of the title of your proposed research paper (see below), a brief one-page proposal explaining the scope of your investigation and a preliminary thesis statement and an annotated bibliography. Each bibliographic entry must be accompanied by a paragraph summarizing the argument of the source and evaluating its usefulness for your research paper project. Use *Chicago Manual of Style* with footnotes and bibliography for your entries (http://writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/documentation).

d. **Project (45%)**
   This research paper should be 15-18 pages in double-spaced 12 pt Times New Roman font. Students registered in EMT 6610 should submit a 20-25 page paper. Footnotes and bibliography should consistently follow either Turabian’s *Manual of Style* or *Chicago Manual of Style*, http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/1/. Your paper should include the following: **Title page.** This includes the paper title, the student's name, the course code and name, the name of the instructor and the date of submission.
Introduction. The most important part of the Introduction is the thesis statement, setting out in the briefest possible form the exact proposition or hypothesis which the thesis will demonstrate. The Introduction also provides the context necessary to show why the thesis statement is important. To this end it identifies the research question and describes its broader setting in academic research. It gives attention to previous enquiry and available secondary literature (the status quaestionis). The Introduction should also include a description of the project as a whole.

If you want, you can also include a section on method as part of the introduction, describing the relevant primary literature and the methods to be used for interpreting it. It gives a rationale for the method and indicates how it will be used to generate dependable conclusions and verify the thesis statement.

Exposition. The main body of the thesis is the clarification, development, and demonstration of the thesis statement, using authoritative evidence. The exposition is typically organized as parts of an argument. The interrelationship of the parts of the exposition, and the direct relevance of each part of the exposition to the thesis statement, should be clear to the reader.

Conclusion. The thesis statement should be recapitulated, the demonstration should be summarized, the limitations of the demonstration and the remaining uncertainties should be acknowledged, and the implications of the study for the faith community, the wider scholarly community, and/or the world should be set forth.

Bibliography. Books, articles, and other sources that have been used must be listed. Primary and secondary literature should always be distinguished.

Grading scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Equivalents</th>
<th>Grade Point</th>
<th>Grasp of Subject Matter</th>
<th>Other qualities expected of students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A RANGE: Excellent: Student shows original thinking, analytic and synthetic ability, critical evaluations, broad knowledge base.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Profound and Creative</td>
<td>Strong evidence of original thought, of analytic and synthetic ability; sound and penetrating critical evaluations which identify assumptions of those they study as well as their own; mastery of an extensive knowledge base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Clear evidence of original thinking, of analytic and synthetic ability; sound critical evaluations; broad knowledge base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B RANGE: Good: Student shows critical capacity and analytic ability, understanding of relevant issues, familiarity with the literature.</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>Good critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; good familiarity with the literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
B- 70-72 2.7 Satisfactory at a post-baccalaureate level. Adequate critical capacity and analytic ability; some understanding of relevant issues; some familiarity with the literature

FZ 0-69 0 Failure Failure to meet the above criteria

Accommodations
Students with diverse learning styles are welcome in this course. If you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Accessibility Office as soon as possible. It takes time to put disability related accommodations in place. The sooner you meet with a Disability Counsellor at Accessibility Services, the quicker s/he can assist you to achieving your learning goals in this course. The University of Toronto is committed to facilitating the inclusion of students in all aspects of university life. For more go to www.accessibility.utoronto.ca or contact accessibility.services@utoronto.ca.

Schedule of Readings (may be subject to change):
1 Jan. 5

What is Islamic Spirituality?

Required Readings:

2 Jan. 12

The Quran and Hadith

Required Readings:
1. Ernst, Introduction, Chapter 2, pp. 32-57.

3 Jan. 19

The Five Pillars of Islam

Required Readings:

4 Jan. 26

Historical Outlines of Classical Sufism

Required Readings:
2. Atif Khalil, “Contentment, Satisfaction and Good-Pleasure: Rida in Early Sufi Moral
5 Feb. 2

Saints and Sainthood

Required Readings:

6 Feb. 9

The Path to the Beloved: Tariqa Leading to Mystical Experience

Required Readings:
1. Ernst, Introduction, Chapter 4, pp. 81-119.

Annotated bibliography due

7 Feb. 16

Sufi Orders

Required Readings:
1. Ernst, Introduction, Chapter 5, pp. 120-146.
3. Muhammad al-Jazuli, Dalā’il al-Khayrāt (Waymarks of Blessings) http://bewley.virtualave.net/dalail1.html
4. Dhikr from the Qadiriyya order (optional) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VmqhQjYTtkI

Reading Week
No Classes on Feb. 23

8 Mar. 2

Poetry

Required Readings:
1. Ernst, Introduction, Chapter 6, pp. 147-178.
3. Performances of the beginning couplets of Rumi’s Masnavi
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSW-AvMYBM0 (Humayun Khan)
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnFyR8oHLy0 (Ayeda Husain Naqvi) (optional)
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWbO2a4r_XA (Babak Radmanesh) (optional)
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kaqeHbM00Mo (Sadeq Fitrat Nashenas) (optional)

9 Mar. 9

Music and Dance

Required Readings:
4. Busiri, Qasida al-Burda
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mNM41SwUnuQ
5. Whirling sama‘ (optional)
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_Cf-ZxDfZA (Performance)
   http://www.cemalnur.org/medyalar/detail/dinle/26 (Turkish)
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkYijji9USs (English)

10 Mar. 16

Women and Mysticism

Required Readings:

12 March 30

**Sufism in the Contemporary World**

**Required Readings:**