

Philosophy 208 Introduction to Islamic Philosophy

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Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 1000 – 1100 hrs, and by appointment.

Texts: (1) texts are available on-line without charge (see URLs listed below)

(2) - Fakhry M. *A History of Islamic Philosophy*. 2nd ed.(Columbia University Press) available online free at <https://adabizouq.com/a-history-of-islamic-philosophy-majid-fakhry-pdf-free-download/>

- Sharif MM. *A History of Muslim Philosophy* (Pakistan Philosophy ongress), available online free at <http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/hmp/index.html>

(3) The instructor's slides will be posted on Brightspace; the lecture notes may be available on Brightspace after the completion of each section.

(4) A series of Study Questions will be posted on Brightspace. The exam questions will be taken from these Study Questions.

Formal Course Requirements and Grading Procedures

- Two examinations: a mid-term examination worth 25% of the course grade, a final examination worth 50% of the course grade

- A short term paper worth 25% of the course grade (10 pages maximum), where possible topics will be announced at the end of the second week of lectures or topics that are otherwise of interest may be arranged in consultation with the instructor.

Significant dates:

- mid-term examination: app. October 19

- final examination: scheduled by the university

- term paper (hard copy): December 4

The dates for lectures and for the mid-term examination are approximate since the amount of time spent on each person or group of persons varies. The mid-term examination will be returned as soon as it is graded. Final examinations are the property of the University and will not be returned. They are available for viewing at the Records Office at a time designated by the University. Term papers may be picked up from the instructor's office one working week after December 4.

Exceptions from course requirements, adjustments for taking examinations at set examination dates, etc. will only be made in accordance with UVic regulations as published in the Calendar. It is the responsibility of the student to acquaint themselves with these measures.

Grading

Marks will be assigned on a letter basis and may be converted to a percentile grade as follows:

F = 0-49; D = 50-59; C = 60-64; C+ = 65-69; B- = 70-72; B = 73-76; B+ = 77-79; A- = 80-84; A = 85-89; A+ = 90-100.

Inappropriate behaviour and contraventions of academic integrity

Inappropriate behaviour and violations of standards of academic integrity as defined in the University Calendar will be dealt with in accordance with University Regulations.

Tentative Outline of Lectures

1. Introduction:

- A brief introduction to the Islam
- A brief introduction to the history of Islamic culture & expansion

2. Philosophical background of Islamic philosophical thought

(Relevant material posted on Brightspace)

- a. Plato
 - *Republic, Theaetetus*
- b. Aristotle
 - *de Anima, Metaphysics, Nicomachean Ethics*
- c. neo-Platonism
 - Plotinus, *Enneads*, available online at http://www.documentacatholicaomnia.eu/03d/0204-0270,_Plotinus,_The_Six_Enneads,_EN.pdf
- (d. Nestorians as transmitters)

3. Mu'tazilah (9th century CE)

- Sharif, Chapter 10, 9PP. 198-220); [Document \(muslimphilosophy.com\)](#)
- a. The nature of God and of the Divine Attributes
- b. The status of the *Qur'an*
- c. Ethical objectivism

4. Al-Kindi ((c. 801–873 CE),

- *On First Philosophy* available at <http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/books/kindimet.pdf>

- a. scientific achievements
- b. metaphysics

5. The Brethren of Purity (Ikhwan al-Safa') (10th century CE)

- brief synopsis by O. Farrukh, available at <http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/hmp/18.htm>
- a. Philosophical doctrines, an outline available at <http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/ip/rep/H051.htm>
- b. Influence

6. Ash'arites (10th century CE)

- article available at <http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/hmp/14.htm>
- a. The nature of God and of the Divine Attributes
- b. The status of the *Qur'an*
- c. Atomic nature of space and time
- c. Ethics

Mid-term examination: app. October 13**7. Al-Farabi ("Second Teacher")** (~872 - ~ 950 CE)

Possible readings:

- *Social Psychology*
- *The Ideas of the Citizens of the Virtuous City* (response to Plato)
- *Categories of Science* (response to Aristotle)
- *The Philosophy of Plato and Aristotle* available at <http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/books/farabi-pl-aris.pdf>
- a. logic (response to Aristotle)
 - non-Aristotelian, future contingents
- b. Neoplatonism
- c. Sufism and philosophy

8. Ibn Sina (Avicenna) (~950 – 1037 CE)

Possible Readings:

- *Logic* available at <http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/books/dansh.pdf>
- *Remarks and Admonitions* available at <http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/books/inati1.pdf>
- a. *metaphysics*
- b. *cosmology*
- c. *human beings*
- d. *arguments for the existence of God*

9. Omar Khayyam (1048-1122 CE)

- a. *the Rubaiyat* (Fitzgerald translations/edition) available at <https://emakbakea.files.wordpress.com/2018/11/rubaiyat-fitzgerald.pdf>

10. Al-Ghazali (Algazel) (1058 – 111 CE)

Possible Readings:

- *Tahafut al-falasifah* available at <http://www.ghazali.org/works/taf-eng.pdf>
- *The Mysteries of the Human Soul* available at <http://www.ghazali.org/works/soul.htm>
- http://www.witness-pioneer.org/vil/Books/AG_MHS/ch01.htm#e1a
- *The Deliverance from Error* available at <http://www.ghazali.org/books/md/IIA-02main.htm> and at <http://www.ghazali.org/works/watt3.htm>

- a. Certainty and Error
- b. Attack on philosophers

11. Ibn Tufail (1105 – 1185 CE)

Possible Reading:

- *On the Improvement of Human Reason: The history of Hayy Ibn Yaqzan* available at
<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/16831/16831-h/16831-h.htm>

- a. nature of human beings

12. Ibn Rushd (Averroës) (1126 – 1198 CE)

Possible Readings:

- *On the Incoherence of the Incoherence* available at

<http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/ir/tt/index.html>

- *Decisive Treatise on the Harmony of Religion and Philosophy* available at

<http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/ir/fasl.htm>

- *Treatise on Metaphysics Book lambda* available at

<http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/books/ir-meta.pdf>

- a. Philosophy and religion
- b. God
- c. Human beings

(*Al-Massir* is an award winning film about Ibn Rushd. It apparently is the only film about a philosopher.)

13. Sufism

A. Ibn Arabi (1165 – 1240 CE)

<http://www.livingislam.org/i/index.html>

B. Rumi (1207 - 1273)

<http://www.rumionfire.com/shams/index.htm>

14. Review