



ENGL 6680 – Sufism: ‘Attar, Rumi & Eraqi Spring 2015

THURSDAYS 5:00-7:45 PM

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Historically, Sufism, its philosophies and practices, and its social organizations have played a major role as a creative force behind Islamic aesthetic expressions. Sufism has often been viewed as controversial – not conforming to orthodox Islam – and this has created many challenging debates in the field. This course aims to explore Sufism, its foundation, Sufi practices and doctrines, and Sufi themes in literature during its formative period from 8th to 13th century. By looking at the origins of its development, we will examine the nature of Sufism, the controversies and debates, and the influence of Sufism on the literary dimension of the Islamic world. While we will look at the origins of Sufism and read about other Sufis, such as Mansur al-Hallaj (858-922) and Muhyiddin Ibn Arabi (1165-1220), in Muslim world, we will remain anchored by focusing on the life and works of three key figures in Persian literary world – Farid al-Din ‘Attar (1145-1221), Jalal al-Din Muhammad Rumi (1207-1273), and Fakr al-Din Ebrahim Eraqi (1213-1289) – and will study the Persian Sufi tradition through their poetry. The main concern of the course is to foster an understanding of the mystical perspectives of these three key figures, which have influenced much of contemporary Persian literature.

REQUIRED BOOKS

1. Losensky, Paul. *Farīd ad-Dīn ‘Attār’s Memorial of God’s friends: Lives and Sayings of Sufis*. Translated and introduced. Preface by Th. Emil Homerin. New York: Paulist Press, 2009.
2. ‘Attar, Farid ud din. *The Conference of the Birds*. Trans. Afkham Darbandi and Dick Davis. Penguin Classics, 1984.
3. Rumi. *The Masnavi: Books One, Two and Three*. Trans. Jawid Mojaddedi. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
4. Rumi. *Mystical Poems of Rumi*. Trans. A. J. Arberry. Ed. Ehsan Yarshater. Foreword by Franklin D. Lewis. Chicago: University of Chicago, 2009.
5. Chittick, William C. and Peter Lamborn Wilson. *Fakhruddin ‘Iraqi: Divine Flashes*. New York: Paulist Press, 1982.
6. Schimmel, Annemarie. *Mystical Dimensions of Islam*. Chapel Hill: UNC, 1975.
7. Sells, Michael. *Early Islamic Mysticism*. New York: Paulist Press, 1996.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

1. Smith, Margaret. *Studies in Early Mysticism in the Near and Middle East*. Oxford, Oneworld, 1995.
2. Smith, Margaret. *Rabia: the Mystic & her Fellow-Saints in Islam*. Lahore, Hijra International Publishers, 1983.
3. Karamustafa, Ahmet T. *Sufism. The Formative Period*. Berkeley - Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2007.
4. Karamustafa, Ahmet T. *God’s Unruly Friends: Dervish Groups in the Islamic Middle Period 1200-1550*. OneWorld Publications, 2006.
5. As-Sulami, Abu `Abd ar-Rahman. *Early Sufi Women. (Dhikr an-Niswa al-Muta’abbidat as-Sufiyyat)*. tr. Cornell, Rkia Elaroui, Lahore, Suhail Academy, 2005.
6. Chittick, William. *Sufism, A Short Introduction*, Boston, Oneworld, 2000.
7. De Jong, Frederick and Radtke, Bernd. eds. *Islamic Mysticism Contested: Thirteen Centuries of Controversies and Polemics*. Brill, 1996.
8. Ernst, Carl. *The Shambhala Guide to Sufism*. Boston and London, Shambhala, 1997.

9. Ernst, Carl. *Sufism: An Introduction to the Mystical Tradition of Islam*. Boston and London, Shambhala, 2011.
10. Lings, Martin. *What is Sufism?* London, George Allen and Unwin, 1998.
11. Schimmel, Annemarie. *The Triumphal Sun: A Study of the Works of Jalaloddin Rumi*. New York, State University of New York Press, 1999.
12. J. T. P. de Bruijn. *Persian Sufi Poetry: An Introduction to the Mystical Uses of Classical Persian Poems*. Richard, Surrey: Curzon, 1997.
13. Lewis, Franklin D. *Rumi. Past and Present, East and West. The Life, Teaching and Poetry of Jalâl al-Din Rumi*. Oxford: Oneworld, 2000.
14. Chittick, William C. *Me and Rumi: The Autobiography of Shams-i Tabrizi*. Louisville: Fons Vitae, 2004.
15. Chittick, William C. *The Sufi Doctrine of Rumi*. Bloomington: World Wisdom, 2005.
16. Mojaddedi, Jawid. *Beyond Dogma: Rumi's Teachings on Friendship with God and Early Sufi Theories*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2011.
17. Keshavarz, Fatemeh. *Reading Mystical Lyric: The Case of Jalal Al-Din Rumi*. University of South Carolina Press, 2005.
18. Zargar, Cyrus. *Sufi Aesthetics: Beauty, Love, and the Human Form in the Writings of Ibn 'Arabi and 'Iraqi*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2011.

ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS

- **Class participation and attendance (80 points):** This is a graduate seminar, so there will be a minimum of lectures; hence, class participation will be a major determinant of the final grade. A successful class will be one in which my voice is hardly heard at all, though I am always ready to respond to questions, raise further issues, and provide clarifications when needed. Class discussions and activities will give you the opportunity to discuss the material. Bring your books and any additional assignment to each class. Keep up with the readings and be ready to discuss the material. Class participation means more than physical attendance. It also means contribution to the discussions of the class. It does not depend on the number of times you contribute, but the quality of your contribution.
- **Weekly Analytical Responses and Discussion Leading (280 points):** Every week each student is to bring to class a two-page analytical response to the readings of the day, which s/he will present to the class. These will serve as the basis for our discussions. The first paragraph should summarize what you see as the most important points discussed in the readings and the second paragraph should raise further issues about their broader

significance for discussion. Papers should be submitted to D2L after class.

Important Dates (all due by 11:59pm):

Analytical Response Week 1: January 15
Analytical Response Week 2: January 22
Analytical Response Week 3: January 29
Analytical Response Week 4: February 5
Analytical Response Week 5: February 12
Analytical Response Week 6: February 19
Analytical Response Week 7: February 26
Analytical Response Week 8: March 5
Analytical Response Week 9: March 12
Analytical Response Week 12: April 2
Analytical Response Week 13: April 9
Analytical Response Week 14: April 16
Analytical Response Week 15: April 23
Analytical Response Week 16: April 30

- **Blogging (140 points):** You are required to create your own blog on Sufism and post weekly comments and reflections on each week's readings once a week. You should also follow and visit your peers' blogs and comment on the posts of at least two of your peers. Your posts should be sophisticated and analytical. I am not looking for your first impressions or how you feel about the readings. I look for specific analysis or close reading of passages, relating it to the bigger themes of the class.

Important Dates:

Blogging Week 1: January 15-January 22
Blogging Week 2: January 22-January 29
Blogging Week 3: January 29-February 5
Blogging Week 4: February 5-February 12
Blogging Week 5: February 12-February 19
Blogging Week 6: February 19-February 26
Blogging Week 7: February 26-March 5
Blogging Week 8: March 5-March 12
Blogging Week 9: March 12-March 19
Blogging Week 12: April 2-April 9
Blogging Week 13: April 9-April 16
Blogging Week 14: April 16-April 23
Blogging Week 15: April 23-April 30
Blogging Week 16: April 30-May 7

- **Research Paper (due on May 7 - 100 points):** This 5500-6500-word paper will be written in a process of multiple drafts. You are required to take a theoretical perspective for this paper.
 - 1- A one-page description of your proposed topic and argument due on April 2; hand in a hard copy in class to me.

- 2- Annotated bibliography due on April 9; hand in a hard copy in class to me.
- 3- A first draft of the paper - at least 75% of the total length due on April 23; hand in a hard copy in class to me.
- 4- During the final weeks of class, on May 7, each student will present their paper to the class at our class time; submit it to D2L by 11:59pm same day.

CLASS POLICIES

- Attendance is mandatory, as is punctuality. More than three absences will lower your total grade by half a grade; excused absence allowed in case of serious medical condition if verified by note from physician. More than two absences will result in a failing grade for the semester because your class is held only once a week.
- Late papers or e-mailed assignments will not be accepted.
- If you wish to discuss your grades, please meet with me during my office hours. Grades will not be discussed in class or through e-mail. Feel free to utilize my office hours to discuss papers.
- You are required to bring your books and assigned readings to class. You may also have them on your computer.
- To pass the course, you need to submit your final research paper. Not submitting it equals fail.
- You are not allowed to use Wi-Fi during the class unless otherwise advised. If you use Wi-Fi and/or are on websites not relevant to our class such as Facebook, you will be asked to leave the classroom.
- Respect others, do not talk when someone else is talking, do not offend others by your language (be mindful that others may be of a different class, gender, religion, race, or ability set than you).
- Homework assignments should be typed, 12 point, Times New Roman font; 1-inch margins; double-spaced; no late assignments.
- You may use e-Books, but for your papers I need you to cite the page number from a paper copy.
- Please turn off your cellphones and store them in your bags or you will be asked to leave the classroom.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ACTIVITIES

Week One - Introduction: What is Sufism?

January 15, 2015 – Introduction: Read the following and come to class prepared to discuss them.

Schimmel – Chapter 1 (pp. 3-22)

Sells – Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 3-97)

Smith, *Studies in Early Mysticism* (pp. 218-243)

Baldick, Chapter 1 (pp. 13-49)

“Introduction to Sufism” by Godlas
<http://www.uga.edu/islam/sufismintro.html>

Classical Sufi Definitions” by Sarraj (d. 988), trans. Godlas
<http://www.uga.edu/islam/sufism/sufismlumdef.html>

“Sufism: Definition and Origin” by Paul Yachness
<http://www.uga.edu/islam/sufismdef.html>

“10 Things Everyone Needs to Know about Islam” by John L. Esposito
http://acc.teachmideast.org/texts.php?module_id=2&reading_id=62

“Islam” by John Voll
http://www.cqpress.com/context/articles/epr_islam.html

Glossary of Sufi terms
<http://web.archive.org/web/20041204163605/http://www.digiserve.com/mystic/Muslim/glossary.html>

Week Two - The Formative Period

January 22, 2015: Read the following and come to class prepared to discuss them.

Schimmel – Chapters 2, 3 and 4 (pp. 23-227)

Sells – Chapter 3 (pp. 97-150), Chapter 9 (pp. 266-280) and Epilogue (pp. 302-3)

Karamustafa, *Sufism: The Formative Period* (pp. 56-82)

Week Three - Sufi Orders

January 29, 2015: Read the following and come to class prepared to discuss them.

Schimmel – Chapter 5, 6 and 7 (228-343)

Karamustafa, *God’s Unruly Friends* (pp. 65-84, 85-96 and 97-102)

“Sufi Orders” by Godlas; Malamatiya, Qalandariya, and Mevleviye
<http://www.uga.edu/islam/sufismorders.html>

“Sufi Orders in the West” by Godlas
<http://www.uga.edu/islam/sufismwest.html>

Week Four - Farid al-Din ‘Attar: Conference of the Birds

February 5, 2015: Read the following and come to class prepared to discuss them.

Attar, *Conference of the birds* (pp. Introduction, 3-127)

Ritter, *Ocean of Soul* (pp. 360-381, 382-447 and 448-519)

Week Five - Farid al-Din 'Attar: Conference of the Birds

February 12, 2015: Read the following and come to class prepared to discuss them.

Attar, *Conference of the birds* (pp. 127-262)

Yaghoobi, Claudia. "Subjectivity in 'Attar's Shaykh San'an Story in *Conference of the Birds*." *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 16/1 (March 2014).

Yaghoobi, Claudia. "Against the Current: Farid al-Din 'Attar's Diverse Voices." *Persian Literary Studies Journal* 1/1 (Autumn 2012): 87-109.

Week Six - Farid al-Din 'Attar: Rabi'a al-Adawiyya

February 19, 2015: Read the following and come to class prepared to discuss them.

'Attar, *Tadhkirat al-Awliyya*, trans. Losensky (pp. 97-114)

Sells – Chapter 4 (pp. 151-170)

As-Sulami (pp. 15-20; 54-70; 72-81)

Smith, *Rabi'a the Mystic* (pp. 111-164 and 190-204)

Week Seven - Mwlana Jalal al-Din Rumi: The Masnavi, Book One

February 26, 2015: Read the following and come to class prepared to discuss them.

The Masnavi: Book One (pp. Introduction, 3-23, 119-137, 185-198, 227-243)

De Bruijn, (pp. 84-113)

Lewis, (pp. 134-202 and 327-393)

Schimmel, *The Triumphal Sun* (pp. 59-222)

"Song of the Reed" by Rumi

Mathnawi I: 1-3

<http://www.dar-al-masnavi.org/n-I-0001.html>

Mathnawi I: 19-34

<http://www.dar-al-masnavi.org/n-I-0004.html>

Mathnawi I: 19-34

<http://www.dar-al-masnavi.org/n-I-0019.html>

Week Eight - Mwlana Jalal al-Din Rumi: The Masnavi, Book Two

March 5, 2015: Read the following and come to class prepared to discuss them.

The Masnavi: Book 2 (pp. 101-106, 129-31, 152-65, 194-201, 223-238)

Lewis, (pp. 394-419)

De Bruijn, (pp. 51-83)

Video: *On the Wings of Love* (34 minutes)

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xp0bdf_the-world-of-rumi-rumi-the-wings-of-love-part-1_shortfilms

Week Nine - Mwlana Jalal al-Din Rumi: The Masnavi, Book Three

March 12, 2015: Read the following and come to class prepared to discuss them.

The Masnavi: Book 3 (pp. 78-91, 141-57, 256-60)

Lewis, (pp. 499-527)

Chittick, *The Sufi Doctrine of Rumi* (pp. 69-99)

Mojaddedi, (pp. 30-46, 64-74, and 93-113)

Week Ten and Eleven - NO CLASS

March 19, 2015 – Spring Break

March 26, 2015 – No Class: Conference

Week Twelve - Mwlana Jalal al-Din Rumi: Ghazals

April 2, 2015: Read the following and come to class prepared to discuss them.

Mystical Poems of Rumi (poems 1, 2, 51, 55, 102, 170, 215, 222, 241, 253)

Chittick, *Me & Rumi* (pp. 176-306)

Keshavarz, (pp.1-12 and 138-160)

Some reading on *Sama*:

<http://sufism.org/lineage/mevlevi/sema/sema-the-universal-movement-by-dr-celaled-din-b-celebi-2>

<http://sufism.org/lineage/mevlevi/sema/sema-the-turning-of-the-soul-by-camille-helminski-2>

<http://sufism.org/lineage/mevlevi/sema/highlights-from-reviews-of-the-1997-whirling-dervish-tour-2>

Video: *The Sufi Way* (24 minutes)

http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/islamic_mysticism_the_sufi_way

Week Thirteen - Fakhr al-Din Eraqi: Divine Flashes

April 9, 2015: Read the following and come to class prepared to discuss them.

Divine Flashes (preface and introduction, pp. 1-66)

Chittick, William C. "Fakhr al-Din Ebrahim 'Eraqi.'" *Encyclopedia Iranica Online* (1998).
<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/eraqi>

Ahuja, Y. D. "Early Years of Shaykh 'Iraqi's Life." *Islamic Culture* 30 (1956): 95-105.

Week Fourteen - Fakhr al-Din Eraqi: Divine Flashes

April 16, 2015: Read the following and come to class prepared to discuss them.

Divine Flashes (pp. 69-95 and 130-147)

Ahuja, Y. D. "Iraqi in India." 32 (1958): 57-70.

Ahuja, Y. D. "Shaykh 'Iraqi's Travels & His Stay in Rum." *Islamic Culture* 33(1959): 260-77.

Ahuja, Y. D. "Jāmī's Indebtedness to 'Iraqi.'" *Indo-Iranica* 17, no. 3 (1964): 30-38.

Week Fifteen - Fakhr al-Din Eraqi: Divine Flashes

April 23, 2015: Read the following and come to class prepared to discuss them.

Divine Flashes (pp. 95-129 and 147-167)

Baldick, Julian. "The Authenticity of 'Iraqi's 'Ushshaq-Nama.'" *Studia Iranica* II. 1 (1973): 67-78.

Dahlen, Ashk P. "The Holy Fool in Medieval Islam: The Qalandaryat of Fakhr al-Din 'Araqi.'" *Orientalia Suecana* 53(2004): 63-81.

Zargar, Cyrus. "Iraqi and the Tradition of Love, Witnessing, and *Shahidbazi*," (Chapter 5)

Week Sixteen - Islamic Mysticism in the West Today

April 30, 2015: Read the following and come to class prepared to discuss them.

De Jong, (pp. 1-21, 22-44 and 45-67)

Ernst, *Sufism* (pp. 199-228)

GENERAL POLICIES

➤ **Religious Observance Policy**

Students are permitted to miss class in observance of religious holidays and other activities observed by a religious group of which the student is a member without academic penalty. Exercising of one's rights under this policy is subject to the GC Honor Code. Students who miss class in observance of a religious holiday or event are required to make up the coursework missed as a result from the absence. The nature of the make-up assignments and the deadline for completion of such assignments are at the sole discretion of the instructor. Failure to follow the prescribed procedures voids all student rights under this policy.

➤ **Assistance for Student Needs Related to Disability**

If you have a disability as described by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, you may be eligible to receive accommodations to assist in programmatic and physical accessibility. Disability Services, a unit of GCSU Office of Institutional Equality and Diversity, can assist you in formulating a reasonable accommodation plan and in providing support in developing appropriate accommodations to ensure equal access to all GCSU programs and facilities. Course requirements will not be waived, but accommodations may assist you in meeting the requirements. For documentation requirements and for additional information, we recommend that you contact Disability Services located in Maxwell Student Union at 478-445-5931 or 478-455-4233.

➤ **Student Opinion Survey Statement**

Given the technological sophistication of Georgia College students, the student opinion survey is being delivered through an online process. Your constructive feedback plays an indispensable role in shaping quality education at Georgia College. All responses are completely confidential and your name is not stored with your responses in any way. In addition, instructors will not see any results of the opinion survey until after final grades are submitted to the university. An invitation to complete the online opinion survey is distributed to students near the end of the semester. Your participation in this very important process is greatly appreciated.

➤ **Academic Honesty**

The integrity of students and their written and oral work is a critical component of the academic process. The submission of another's work as one's own is plagiarism and will be dealt with using the procedures outlined in the GC Catalog.

<http://catalog.gcsu.edu/ugrad/student-academic-dishonesty.htm>

Remember that allowing another student to copy one's own work violates the standards of academic integrity.

<http://catalog.gcsu.edu/grad/student-academic-dishonesty.htm>

Also see the student Honor Code at the website below:

<http://www.gcsu.edu/studentlife/handbook/code.htm>

➤ **Fire Drills**

Fire drills will be conducted annually. In the event of a fire alarm, students will exit the building quickly in a quick and orderly manner through the nearest hallway exit. Learn the floor plan and exits of the building. Do not use elevators. If you encounter heavy smoke, crawl on the floor so as to gain fresh air. Assist disabled persons and others if possible without endangering your own life. Assemble for a head count on the front lawn of main campus or other designated assembly area. For more information on other emergencies, please visit: <http://www.gcsu.edu/emergency/actionplanmain.htm>