

UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON -- NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

Electronically submit this completed form with attachments in one file to the Chair of the College Curriculum Committee.

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|---|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| COLLEGE (check one): | Arts and Sciences | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Business | <input type="checkbox"/> | Education | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Proposal Submitted By: Mehdi Aminrazavi | | | Date Prepared: | | | |
| Course Title: | Islamic Philosophy and Theology | | | | | |
| Department/discipline and course number*: | CPR. This course will be cross listed as Relg. 353 & Phil 353 (will also be accepted in Middle Eastern Studies Minor) | | | | | |
| Prerequisites: | All 300- and 400- level religion courses have as a prerequisite any one 100- or 200-level religion course or the permission of the instructor. | | | | | |

*This course number must be approved by the Office of the Registrar before the proposal is submitted.

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|---|---|--|------------|-------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Number of credits: | 3 | Will this course meet for at least 700 contact minutes for each credit hour proposed? <i>If no, provide a credit hour justification.</i> | YES | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Will this be a <i>new, repeatable</i> "special topics" course? (Do you want students to be able to take this new course more than once if the topic changes?) | | | NO | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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|--|------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Date of first offering of this <i>new</i> course: | Fall 2018 | | | | | |
| Proposed frequency of offering of the course: | Every other year | | | | | |
| List the faculty who will likely teach the course: | Mehdi Aminrazavi | | | | | |
| Are ANY new resources required? | NO | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | Document in attached impact statement | |

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|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| This new course will be (check all that apply): | | | | | | |
| Required in the major | <input type="checkbox"/> | Required in the minor | <input type="checkbox"/> | General Elective | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Elective in the major | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Elective in the minor | <input type="checkbox"/> | General Education** | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |

**AFTER the new course is approved, a separate proposal must be sent to the General Education Committee.

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| Catalog Description (suggested length – less than 50 words): | |
| Central themes and topics in the Islamic theological and philosophical tradition will be discussed in some detail. Such topics include the existence of God, free will and determinism, eschatology, ontology and epistemology. References will be made between major Islamic philosophers and their medieval Christian counterparts. | |

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|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| COURSE HISTORY: | Was this course taught previously as a topics or experimental course? | YES | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Course Number and Title of Previous Course | | Semester Offered | Enrollment | | |
| Relg. 400 | | Spring 2010 | 14 | | |
| X | | CHECK HERE if the proposed course is to be <i>equated</i> with the earlier topics or experimental offerings. If equated, students who took the earlier "topics" course will only be able to take the new course as a repeat (C- grade or lower). | | | |
| NOTE: If the proposed course has not been previously offered as a topics or experimental course, explain in the attached rationale statement why the course should be adopted even though it has not been tried out. | | | | | |

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:

- Rationale Statement** – Why is this course needed? What purposes will it serve?
- Credit Hour Justification** (if required) – explain how this course will comply with the UMW Credit Hours Policy (D.5.3)
- Impact Statement** – Provide details about the Library, space, staffing, budget, and technology impacts created by adding this new course. Include supporting statements from the Library, IT Department, etc. **Any change that impacts another Department must have a written statement (such as a copy of an email) from the Chair(s) agreeing to the change.**
- Sample Syllabus**

Department Chair Approval: Craig Vasey

Date: Jan 23 2017

CCC Chair Approval: Surupa Gupta

Date: 01/23/2017

UCC Chair Approval: Patricia Reynolds

Date: 2/13/2017

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:

1. Rationale Statement: Why is this course needed? What purposes will it serve?

Islam is generally known as a religion and these days as a radical religion. Rarely, the rich Islamic intellectual tradition is mentioned. In this course, theological and philosophical issues, themes and topics will be discussed and analyzed. This course will also discuss the interactions between Islamic theological and philosophical tradition and that of Christianity, e.g. Avicenna and St. Aquinas.

2. Credit Hour Justification: This class will meet three times a week and is in compliance with UMW credit hours policy.

3. Impact Statement – Provide details about the Library, space, staffing, budget, and technology impacts created by adding this new course.

N/A---None of the above except the use of library is needed.

4. Sample Syllabus

Islamic Philosophy and Theology

Mehdi Aminrazavi
Islamic Philosophy and Theology
Religion 400
Spring 2010

Islamic philosophy and theology began in the 8TH CE and remains a living tradition up to date. Contrary to Western philosophical tradition that can be divided into ancient, medieval, modern and contemporary, Islamic philosophy and theology has kept its medieval orientation in terms of its content but consists of numerous schools of thought. In this course, we will study the central themes and topics of various schools of theological and philosophical tradition in Islam. Where and when possible, we will discuss the following topics in comparison to medieval Christian philosophy and theology.

1. Introduction to Islamic intellectual tradition

- A. Early Theological debates
- B. The rise of Theological Schools
- C. Early Islamic philosophy: Peripatetics and the concept of “existence”
- D. Islamic Philosophy: Middle Period-The crisis of reason
- E. Later Islamic Philosophy: The Reality of “existence”

1. School of Maraghah
2. School of Shiraz
3. School of Isfahan
4. School of Tehran

F. Contemporary Islamic Philosophy

1. Traditionalists
2. Modernists

2. Al-Kindi

- A. *On the Intellect*

3. Al-Razi

The Philosopher's Life
Spiritual Medicine

4. Al-Farabi

- A. *On the Intellect*

B. *Reconciliation of the Opinions of the Two Divine Sages, Plato and Aristotle*

C. *Directing Attention to the Way to Happiness*

D. *The Perfect State*

5. Avicenna (Ibn Sina)

A. Selections from *The Cure*

B. Selections from *Metaphysics*

C. *Al-Isharat: On Theodicy and Providence*

C. *On Governance*

D. *On the Stations of the Knowers*

6. Mid-Term

Avicenna- Continued

Islamic Philosophy: Middle Period

7. Al-Ghazzali

A. The Existential Dilemma

B. *The Incoherence of the Philosophers*

C. *The Niche of Light*

8. Ibn Tufayl

A Philosophical Allegory: *Hay Ibn Yaqzan*

9. Suhrawardi: The School of Illumination

A. Rational and illuminative foundations of reason

B. *The Philosophy of Illumination*

B. *The Treatise of the Birds*

D. Rapprochement of reason, intuition and asceticism

10. Mulla Sadra: The School of Transcendental Theo-Sophia (*al-hikmat al-mutaliyyah*)

- A. *The Wisdom of the Throne*
- B. Principles of Illumination and the ontological foundations of reason
- C. On the principality of Existence
- D. Trans-substantiality of motion

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. M. Fakhry, *History of Islamic Philosophy*
2. McGinnis - *Classical Arabic Philosophy*

ON RESERVE: An Anthology of Philosophy in Persia, 5 Vols. Ed. S.H. Nasr & M. Aminrazavi, London: I.B. Tauris, 1999-2014

References:

- Index Islamicus*
- M. Aminrazavi, *Suhrawardi and the School of Illumination*
- H. Daiber, *Biography of Islamic Philosophy*
- Leaman - *A Brief Introduction to Islamic Philosophy*
- S. H. Nasr, *Islamic Philosophy from its Origin to the Present*
- S. H. Nasr & O. Leaman, *History of Islamic Philosophy*
- S. H. Nasr & M. Aminrazavi, eds. *An Anthology of Philosophy in Persia*, vol1&2.
- M.M. Sharif, *A History of Muslim Philosophy*

CLASS REQUIREMENT:

There will be a mid-Term (20%), a term paper of 10-12 pages (30%) due on the last day of class, and a comprehensive final examination (30%). The format for all exams is comprehensive essays in which analysis and interpretation of the subject matter will be required.

Every student is required to choose a topic/thesis and provide an in-class analysis and interpretation of it (20 min.) followed by a discussion. The feedback you will receive could then be incorporated into your eventual term paper. You may also choose a different topic for your term paper than your class presentation.

The presentation, attendance and participation in class discussions (above and beyond of what is expected of College students) will count for 20% of the grade. Class presentations will begin right after the Fall break.

Trinkle Hall #237
 Tel. 540-654-1341
Maminraz@umw.edu

Office Hours:

M: 9:30-11:00
 T: By appointment only
 W: 9:30-11:00
 TH: By appointment only
 F: 9:30-11:00

I. Student participation in class discussions is required above and beyond what is expected of a College student. The ability and willingness to analyze philosophically dense materials and/or having some background in philosophy is highly desirable.

A grade of D or below will be reported as "unsatisfactory" on your mid-semester report.

Your letter grade in the course will be an A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, or F if your average is at least 90%, 80%, 70%, 60% or below 60%, respectively. "Participation" means more than attendance and occasional comments, but it does include attendance, since you cannot participate if you're absent. Excessive absences will be detrimental to your grade. The primary factors in the participation grade are: evidence that you are prepared for class (by your questions, answers and comments) and the quality (as well as quantity) of your contributions to our in-class work.

Late work, exams and tests will not be credited; to avoid a zero, do it on time.

II. University of Mary Washington operates at all times under an Honor System. Each student is expected to comply with the spirit of the system, which means (among other things) regular attendance in class, conscientious and timely completion of homework and reading assignments, honesty, and attentiveness to infractions of the Honor Policy.

Because we have an Honor System and intend that students conduct themselves as trustworthy, mature and self-responsible individuals, we do not mechanically count attendance each session. However, you are expected to be in class for each meeting, and to miss only in cases of genuine and significant conflicts, illness or emergency (the same criteria you would apply to the instructor). You will lose the points for participation and attendance if you miss four classes or more which does not fit the description above.

III. When you are having difficulty with the material in this course, you should feel free to contact me and ask for assistance; it is unwise to let your confusions linger. It is your responsibility as a student to seek such help when and as you need it.