

General Course Information:

PHIL G4740.001 ISLAMIC PHILOSOPHY

Instructor Information:

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Course Description

The seminar will be devoted to Islamic political philosophy. Will be first presented the way in which the political question of the leadership of the Muslim community after 632 AD contributed to the early development of Islamic theology (*Kalām*). Works of classical philosophers in political philosophy will then be studied: Al Farābī's political writings, Ibn Bajjah's *Regimen of the solitary*, Ibn Tufayl's *Hayy ibn Yaqzān*, and Averroes (Ibn Rushd) *Commentary on Plato's Republic*. Then the thoughts of Muslim reformist philosophers of late nineteenth and twenty centuries will be examined: Jamāl ad-Dīn al Afghānī, Ameer Ali, Muhammad Iqbal, Ali Ibn Abderraziq. The focus will be more particularly on ijtihād (interpretation as times change) and secularism.

Method of Instruction

Lecture and class discussions

Method of Evaluation

A presentation in class of the readings (30%), attendance and participation (20%), and a final 15-20 pages paper.

Syllabus.

- 1-Introduction: Theologico-political questions and the development of kalām
- 2- Al Farabi's *On the Perfect State*
3. Al Farabi's other political writings
4. Ibn Bajjah's *Rule of the Solitary*
5. Ibn Tufayl's *Hayy ibn Yaqzān*
6. Ibn Tufayl's *Hayy ibn Yaqzān*
7. Averroes' *On Plato's Republic*.
8. Averroes' *On Plato's Republic*.
9. Jamāl ad-Dīn al Afghānī articles.
10. Ameer Ali, extracts from *The spirit of Islam*.
11. Muhammad Iqbal's political writings
12. Muhammad Iqbal's political writings
13. Ali Ibn Abderraziq: *Islam and the Foundations of Power*.

Final paper is due on May.