

General Course Information:

PHIL G4740.001 ISLAMIC PHILOSOPHY

Instructor Information:

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Office Hours:

Course Description

The seminar will be devoted to the metaphysics of Islamic mysticism known as Sufism. We will start with a brief historical presentation of the so called "Islamic sciences" and the way in which philosophy and Sufism remain outside of the field thus constituted. Then different works will be examined which are at once philosophical and mystical (we will study in particular how Sufism expressed its metaphysics using the language of Neo Platonism): works by Avicenna (Ibn Sina), Al Ghazali, Suhrawardi, Ibn Tufayl, and Ibn Arabi will thus be studied. In a final part of the seminar a particular Sufi order will be studied and its metaphysics examined: the Order known as Tijaniyya, which was founded in the last decades of the 18th century.

Method of Instruction

Lecture and class discussions

Method of Evaluation

Graduate students will be required to give presentations of the readings and to write a final 15-20 pages paper.

Undergraduate taking the seminar will have a midterm examination and will write a final 10-15 pages paper.