DESCRIPTION

Sufism, the mystical formation of Islam, for centuries has been a driving force in defining the contours of religious experience among the peoples of the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. It has contributed significantly to the development of Islamic religious thought and the globalization of Islam. Also, through the centuries, Sufis have greatly enriched the literary, artistic, and musical life of Muslim cultures. This course is concerned with the historical formation, spiritual masters (men and women), devotional practices, and aesthetic achievements of Sufism. It will include close readings of Sufi texts, study the relations of Sufism to other aspects of cultural and intellectual life, plus examine the connections mysticism has with art, architecture and music. The course will conclude with an appraisal of Sufism’s place in modernity and post-modernity.

MATERIALS

**Required:**
- Farid ud-Din Attar, *The Conference of the Birds*
- J. E. Campo, *A Reader on Sufism* (available at Grafikart by 4/6)
- C. Ernst, *The Shambhala Guide to Sufism*
- A. Karamustafa, *Sufism: The Formative Period*

**Recommended:** J.E. Campo, *Encyclopedia of Islam*


REQUIREMENTS

1. Discussion & Event Responses 10%
2. Midterm Exam 30% 5/5
3. 2 Interpretive Essays on Sufi texts 30% Due: 5/7, & 6/2
4. Final Exam 30% 6/10, 12-3 pm

- The Discussion grade is based on participation in classroom sessions, small group discussions, and discussion notes. CMES & UCSB Islam and Middle East events will be announced in class. Please see the instructor if you have a question about a non-CMES event. For credit a 1-page response (350-400 words) must to be submitted for each event. The first must be submitted by 4/30, the second by 6/4.

- The Midterm Exam will be objective. No make-ups are allowed w/o prior permission by the instructor.

- The Interpretive Essays will be based on assigned selections of Sufi literature. They will be 1400-1500 words each. Additional criteria will be provided.

- The Final Exam will be comprehensive.
**Cell-Phones and Other Electronic Devices**

All personal cellular and electronic devices are to be disabled and NOT used during class and lab hours unless expressly permitted by the instructors.

**Our Standard of Academic Honesty and Responsibility:** The Student Code of Conduct clearly sets out the standard of academic honesty and responsibility in which a student's work must be his or her own work. The faculty in Religious Studies believes that all class assignments and exams enhance a student's overall intellectual growth, as well as his or her mastery of a subject. Plagiarism, the unauthorized submission of someone else's work as one's own, completely undermines the learning process, and is one of the most serious infractions of student conduct and the intellectual environment of the university. Any student who commits plagiarism will receive a FAIL for the course and, if warranted, we will ask the Dean of Students and the Dean of Undergraduate Studies to suspend them from the university. Make certain that in your essays you provide **complete citations** for all sources (including materials from the web) cited directly or indirectly, verbatim or paraphrased.
Outline of Topics & Readings

Note: Readings preceded by an asterisk (*) are to be found in the course reader.

I. Introductory Queries: What is Islam and what is Sufism? (March 31-April 9)
   Readings: *Hadith of Gabriel
              Ernst, Preface & ch. 1
              *Mahfouz, “Zaabalawi”

II. Sufi Beginnings (April 9-April 14)
    Readings: Ernst, ch. 2
              *Tabari, "Muhammad’s Night Journey & Ascension"
              *Accounts on the Origins of Sufism

III. Early Sufism in Baghdad and Beyond (April 14-April 23)
     Readings: Karamustafa, chs. 1-3
               *Early Sufi Masters—Rabi’a, Bistami, Hallaj & Junayd

IV. Muslim Saints: Men and Women (April 23-April 30)
    Readings: Ernst, ch. 3
              Karamustafa, ch. 6
              *Selected Accounts about Sufi Saints
              *Ibn Tufayl, Hayy ibn Yaqzan

V. Sufi Paths & Devotional Practices (April 30-May 12)
   Readings: Karamustafa, ch. 5
              Ernst, chs. 4 & 5
              *Nizami, The Life & Times of Shaikh Nizam-u’d-din Auliya (selection)

VI. Sufi Literature: Prose & Poetry (May 12-May 26)
    Readings: Ernst, ch. 6
              Karamustafa, ch. 4
              *Jami,”The Life of Mawlana Jalal al-Din Rumi”
              *Rumi, Selected Poems
              Attar, Conference of the Birds

VII. Sufi Aesthetics: Music & Dance (May 26-May 28)
     Readings: Ernst, ch. 7
              *Ruzbihan Baqli, “On Listening to Music”

VIII. Sufism in the Modern World (May 28-June 4)
      Readings: Ernst, ch. 8
                 *Johansen, “Sufism and Politics”
                 *Lewis, “Rumi Moves into Western Consciousness”

➢ Final Exam: Wednesday, 10 June, 12:00 to 3:00 pm