

COURSE OUTLINE

Philosophy 121
Islam: A Way of Life

I. Catalog Statement

Philosophy 121 is a study of Islam as both a religion and a culture. The study of the religion includes a consideration of beliefs and practices of the faith, and the history of the man, Muhammad, who revealed the faith. The study of the culture includes a consideration of the early successors to Muhammad, religious movements and sects, philosophy, science, and political power.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0

Total Course Units: 3.0

Total Lecture Hours: 48.0

Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48.0 hours

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for English 101

II. Course Entry Expectations

Skills Level Ranges: Reading 5, Writing 5, Listening/Speaking 5, Math 1

Prior to enrolling in the course, the student should be able to:

1. organize and write thesis-based essays;
2. use detailed examples, facts, logical explanations, and other appropriate support or thesis statements;
3. critically analyze selected prose works dealing with important contemporary issues;
4. summarize, analyze, and synthesize information, express and apply standards for judgment, compare and contrast, and evaluate evidence in order to form and state reasoned opinions;
5. gather and organize information through library research;
6. demonstrate a command of grammar, diction, syntax, and mechanics sufficient for college level work: control of standard English at the sentence level, with few major errors in grammar and punctuation;
7. understand abstract and complex collegiate reading selection;
8. communicate learning, conceptual understanding and analytical skills through class discussions and lectures.

III. Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. interpret and summarize both selected primary and secondary sources;
2. identify and explain the historical, cultural, and intellectual contexts within which fundamental philosophical concerns are raised;

3. critically evaluate the arguments relating to the world views presented in various schools of philosophy;
4. demonstrate the ability to compose critical and analytical responses in writing to the philosophical issues/ideas inherent in the Islamic world views.

IV. Course Content

Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48 hours

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| A. Introduction | 6 hours |
| 1. The philosophical approach, i.e., critical inquiry | |
| 2. The historical approach | |
| 3. The methods of the social sciences | |
| 4. The use of textual and historical criticism | |
| B. Islam the Religion | 6 hours |
| 1. The basic beliefs of a Muslim | |
| a. The right path of action: Articles of faith; The Qur'an; Hadiths; and the Five Pillars of Islam | |
| b. Muhammad – The prophet and the man: Early life; prophetic call; ministry in Mecca; ministry in Medina; and death of the prophet | |
| C. Islam the Culture | 36 hours |
| 1. A compound of varied interests | |
| 2. Synthesis under the Caliphate, i.e., the successors of Mohammad: in Medina; in Damascus; and in Baghdad | |
| 3. Early movements within Islam | |
| a. Karijites | |
| b. Murijites | |
| c. Mutazilites: A group of theologians who sought a middle ground between the Karijites and the Murijites | |
| 4. Different sects within Islam | |
| a. Sunni (Traditionalists) | |
| 1. Belong to one of four schools of jurisprudence | |
| a. Sacred law | |
| b. Four sources of jurisprudence: Qur'an; Hadiths; analogy; and consensus | |
| 2. Major sect | |
| b. Shi'ah (Followers of AID) | |
| 1. A heretical group | |
| 2. Believe that the hereditary line from Mohammad through Ali should have determined the leadership of the Muslims | |
| 3. Disavow consensus (see section on Sunni above) | |
| 4. Rely on imams (in Shi'ah, a divinely appointed successor to Mohammad) | |
| 5. Different Shi'te sects | |
| a. Zaidites or Fivers | |
| b. Ishmailites or Seveners | |
| c. Twelvers – include Iranians | |
| c. Sufis (Mystics) | |
| 5. Philosophy | |
| a. Muslim notions of truth | |
| 1. naql – lit. transmission, the delivery of truth via revelation and transmitted in faithful theology, as contrasted with 'aql | |
| 2. 'aql – investigative reason | |
| b. The Muslims and Greek philosophy | |
| c. The leading Muslim philosophers | |
| d. Aristotelian philosophy as interpreted by Muslim philosophers | |
| e. The impact of Islamic philosophy on European theological and philosophical | |

thought in the Middle Ages

6. Science
7. Art
8. Political power
 - a. Viewed as part of the true domain of Muslim faith and practice
 - b. Reduced by inroads of the West
 - c. Restored in recent times
 - d. Why Israel is a challenge
9. The status of women in Islam
10. Renewing the understanding of Islam
 - a. An idea of unity
 - b. Islam in a changed world
 - c. Conservatism
 1. Wahhabism
 2. Shi'ites in Iran

V. Methods of Instruction

The following methods of instruction may be used in the course:

1. classroom lecture discussions;
2. audio visual presentations;
3. student presentations and discussions;
4. outside readings of reserved books and articles from scholarly journals;
5. visits to museums and mosques.

VI. Out of Class Assignments

The following out of class assignments may be used in the course:

1. essays (e.g. an essay analyzing the Five Pillars of Islam);
2. report (e.g. an individual project including a research paper on a visit to a mosque or an interview with a Muslim practitioner).

VII. Methods of Evaluation

The following methods of evaluation may be used in the course:

1. two to three one hour class examinations and a final examination requiring demonstration of course exit standards;
2. written assignments demonstrating the critical analysis of the theories and their supporting arguments;
3. group discussions;
4. class participation demonstrating course exist standards.

VIII. Textbook(s)

Denny, Frederick Mathewson. *An Introduction to Islam*. 4th.
New Jersey, Prentice Hall, 2006
14th Grade Reading Level, ISB # 013814477X

IX. Other Appropriate Reading

Kritzeck, James. *Anthology*
Ontario, Penguin Books, 1964

14th Grade Reading Level: ISBN: 0452008794

X. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the required coursework in Islam: A Way of Life the student will be able to:

1. interpret and summarize both selected primary and secondary sources;
2. identify and explain the historical, cultural and intellectual contexts within which fundamental philosophical concerns are raised;
3. critically evaluate the arguments relating to the world views presented in various schools of Islamic philosophy;
4. demonstrate the ability to compose critical and analytical responses in writing to the philosophical issues/ideas inherent in the Islamic world view.