



HI-538 Dialogue Among Muslim Schools of Thought: Sunnis, Shias, and Others

Fall 2024

Hartford International University for Religion & Peace

Hossein Kamaly
Imam Ali Chair in Shia Studies
Professor of Interfaith & Islamic Studies

Meeting Time: Thursdays: 6:00-7:50PM
Office Hours: Tuesdays, Fridays, 11:00-11:59 AM + by appointment

Hybrid Synchronous
(Zoom)

This course surveys four themes with reference to major religiously defined identity groups among Muslims:

- 1) Remembering & Revering the Prophet
- 2) Community: Ritual & Law
- 3) Renunciation, Asceticism, and Mysticism
- 4) Theology and Philosophical Thought

Three successive weeks will be devoted to reading and discussing material on each theme.

Syllabus: First Draft 12th September 2025 (Subject to multiple revision):

Pedagogy: This course is based on reading and in-depth discussion: Primary and secondary sources will be read and discussed.

Students are encouraged to engage various online resources, including generative AI engines.



Required Work & Evaluation:

On the average, 70-140 pages of readings are assigned per week.

Students should prepare for class by reading all assigned texts for each session.

Online participation & Attendance:

Attendance, keeping up with assigned readings and active participations are important in this class.

Note: More than two unexcused absences result in a failing grade.

Offline discussion

Students are expected to respond to assigned readings before each class session by posting questions and comments on weekly discussion threads on CANVAS. Responses posted closer than three hours to class time will be disregarded.

Writing assignments:

- 1) Four responses (each about 1200-1500 words in length), one for each theme:
- 2) A final research paper, 3500-4000 words: specific topic to be decided in conference with the instructor. Topics will be assigned in class. (Progress to be assessed beginning the fifth week of the semester).

Note: Late submissions are *not* accepted.

Grading: The following formula will be used to calculate the final grade for each student:
Regular and timely online attendance & participation (10%) + Responses (4 x 15%) + Final Paper (40%) (adds up to 110% in favor of the students)

Note: This course description, syllabus, and reading list is subject to multiple revisions. For updates, visit CANVAS.



Suggested Readings: (listed alphabetically; selections assigned selectively depending on class dynamics)

- 1) Abisaab, Rula Jurdi. Shi'i Jurisprudence, Sunnism, and the Traditionist Thought (Akhbari) of Muhammad Amin Astarabadi (d. 1626-27). *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 47.1 (Feb 2015): 5-23.
- 2) Al-Abdul Jader, Adel S. The Origin of Key Shi'ite Thought Patterns in Islamic History. *Living Islamic History: Studies in Honour of Professor Carole Hillenbrand* (2010).
- 3) Afsaruddin, Asma. Sunni-Shii Dialectics and the Quran.
- 4) Ansari, Hassan. Sunnism in Rayy during the Seljūq Period: Sources and Observations. *Der Islam* 2016; 93(2): 460–471.
- 5) ARIKEWUYO, AHMED NAFIU. A Comparative Study of al-Ghazali's and Ibn Taymiyyah's Views on Sufism. *International Journal of Islamic Thought*, Vol. 17: (June) 2020, pp. 15-24.
- 6) Azzam, Abdel Rahman. Sources of the Sunni Revival: Nizam u-Mulk & the Nizamiyya: An 11th Century Response to Sectarianism. *The Muslim World*, 1/2016, ISSN: 0027-4909, Volume 106, Issue 1, p. 97.
- 7) Barzegar, Abbas. The Persistence of Heresy: Paul of Tarsus, Ibn Saba, and Historical Narrative in Sunni Identity Formation. *Numen*, Volume 58 (2011), Issue 2, pp. 207-231.
- 8) Baugh, Carolyn. Revolting Women? Early Kharijite Women in Islamic Sources. *Journal of Islamic and Muslim Studies*, Vol. 2 (2017) no.1, pp. 36–55.
- 9) Bayhom-Daou, Tamima. The Imam's Knowledge and the Quran according to al-Faḍl b. Shādhān al-Nisābūrī (d. 260 A.H./874 A.D.). *BSOAS* 64, no. 2 (2001), pp. 190-8.
- 10) Calder, Norman. Khums in Imāmī Shī'ī Jurisprudence, from the Tenth to the Sixteenth Century A. D. *BSOAS*, Vol. 45, No. 1 (1982), pp. 39-47.
- 11) Calder, Norman. Zakat in Imami Shi'i jurisprudence, from the tenth to the sixteenth century A. D. *BSOAS*, Vol. 44, No. 3 (1981), pp. 468-480.
- 12) Calder, Norman. Doubt and Prerogative: The Emergence of an Imāmī Shī'ī Theory of Ijtihad. *Studia Islamica*, No. 70 (1989), pp. 57-78.
- 13) Cook, Michael. EARLY ISLAMIC DIETARY LAW.
- 14) Erginbas, Vefa. Problematizing Ottoman Sunnism: Appropriation of Islamic History and Ahl al-Baytism in Ottoman Literary and Historical Writing in the Sixteenth Century. *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, Vol. 60, No. 5 (2017), pp.614-646.
- 15) Fadel, Mohammad. Two Women, One Man: Knowledge, Power, and Gender in Medieval Sunni Legal Thought. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 29, No. 2 (May, 1997), pp. 185-204.
- 16) Gleave, Robert. Recent Research into the History of Early Shi'ism. *History Compass*, 7/6 (2009), pp. 1593–1605.
- 17) Gleave, Robert M. Early Shī'ī Hermeneutics: Some Exegetical Techniques Attributed to the Shi'i Imams. In Karen Bauer (ed.), *Imams, in Aims, Methods, and contexts of Qur'anic exegesis* (2nd/8th-9th/15th centuries) (Oxford University Press, 2013).
- 18) Gruber, Christiane. The 'Restored' Shī'ī muṣḥaf as Divine Guide? The Practice of fāl-i Qur'ān in the Ṣafavid Period. *Journal of Qur'anic Studies*, Vol. 13, No. 2 (2011), pp. 29-55.
- 19) Haider, Najam I. Prayer, Mosque, and Pilgrimage: Mapping Shī'ī Sectarian Identity in 2nd/8th Century Kūfa. *Islamic Law and Society*, Vol. 16, No. 2 (2009), pp. 151-174.
- 20) Katz, Marion Holmes. *The Birth of The Prophet Muhammad: Devotional Piety in Sunni Islam*. Routledge, 2007.
- 21) Khaleeli, Alexander. Hisham ibn al-Hakam: Arch-Heretic? *Journal of Shia Islamic Studies*, Summer 2010, Vol. III · No. 3.
- 22) Kohlberg, Etan. Sunni Views on the Companions. *In Praise of the Few: Studies in Shi'i Thought and History*, 2020.
- 23) Kohlberg, Etan. Mutazili Views on the Companions. *In Praise of the Few: Studies in Shi'i Thought and History*, 2020.



- 24) Kohlberg, Etan. Some Imami Shi'i Views on the Companions. *In Praise of the Few: Studies in Shi'i Thought and History*, 2020
- 25) Kohlberg, Etan. Imami Shi'i Views on the Participants in the Battles of the Camel and Siffin. *In Praise of the Few: Studies in Shi'i Thought and History*, 2020.
- 26) Lewinstein, Keith. The Azariqa in Islamic Heresiography. *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, University of London, Vol. 54, No. 2 (1991), pp. 251-268.
- 27) Lewinstein, Keith. Making and Unmaking a Sect: The Heresiographers and the Sufriyya. *Studia Islamica*, No. 76 (1992), pp. 75-966.
- 28) Madelung, Wilferd F. SUNNISM AND MUTAZILA. Early Sunni Doctrine Concerning Faith as Reflected in the Kitāb al-imān of Abu 'Ubaid al-Qāsim b. Sallām (d. 224/839) *Studia Islamica* XXXII. Paris, 1970.
- 29) Makdisi, George. The Sunni Revival. In *History and Politics in 11th Century Baghdad*.
- 30) Messick et al. Ifta in Sunni Legal Theory. Chapter 1, in *Islamic Legal Interpretation: Muftis and their Fatwas*.
- 31) Michot, Yahya Ibn Taymiyya's Commentary on the Creed of al-Hallāj. In *Sufism and Theology*, by Ayman Shihadeh (2007).
- 32) Michot, Yahya . Ibn Taymiyya's Critique of Shi'i Imamology: Translation of Three Sections of his *Minhaj al-Sunna*. *The Muslim World*, Volume: 104 (2014) Issue: 1-2, pp. 109-149.
- 33) Modarressi, Hossein. Early Debates on the Integrity of the Qur'an: A Brief Survey. *Studia Islamica*, No. 77 (1993), pp. 5-39.
- 34) Modarressi, Hossein. *Text & Interpretation*. Harvard University Press, 2022.
- 35) Reinhart, A. Kevin. On Sunni Sectarianism. *Living Islamic History: Studies in Honour of Professor Carole Hillenbrand*.
- 36) Rizvi, Sajjad. New Sociopolitical Formations and the 'Renaissance' of Philosophy. *The Wiley Blackwell History of Islam* (2018).
- 37) Salem, Feryal. Freewill, Qadar, and Kasb in the Epistle of Hasan al-Basri to 'Abd al-Malik. *Muslim World*, January 2014
- 38) Stewart, Devin J. An Episode in the 'Amili Migration to Safavid Iran: Husayn b. 'Abd al-Samad al-'Amili's Travel Account. *Iranian Studies*, Vol. 39, No. 4 (Dec., 2006), pp. 481-508.
- 39) Stroumsa, Sarah. THE BEGINNINGS OF THE MU'TAZILA RECONSIDERED. *Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam*, 13 (1990).
- 40) Surani, Iqbal. Satpanthī Khoja-s to Shī'a Imāmī Ismā'īlī Ṭarīqa: The Construction of Religious Identity of the Khoja-s Imāmī Ismā'īlī of South Asia. *Studia Islamica* 112 (2017) 1-28.
- 41) Van Ess, Josef. *Theology and Society in the Second and Third Centuries of the Hijra*. 5 Volumes, Brill, 2017.
- 42) Vilozny, Roy. Pre-Buyid Hadith Literature: The Case of al-Barqi from Qumm (d. 274/888 or 280/894) in Twelve Sections. In Farhad Daftary & Gurdofarid Miskinzoda (eds.), *The Study of Shi'i Islam History, Theology and Law* (2014).
- 43) Walker, Paul E. ISLAMIC RITUAL PREACHING (KHUTBAS) IN A CONTESTED ARENA: SHI'IS AND SUNNIS, FATIMIDS AND ABBASIDS. *ANUARIO DE ESTUDIOS MEDIEVALES* 42/1, enero-junio de 2012, pp. 119-140.

