

Module Title: Theology (*Kalam*)

Module Code: THEEXI

Course Duration: 17 Weeks

Teaching Method: 2 units/week

Credits: 15

Overview:

This module engages in an intensive and detailed study of the Muslim theological doctrines regarding establishing the existence and attributes of Allah. The course will consist of a close, complete and critical reading of the authoritative commentary of ‘Allāma Ḥillī on Naṣīr al-Dīn Ṭūsī’s most renowned work of *‘ilm al-kalām: Kashf al-Murād fī Tajrīd al-I’tiqād*.

Syllabus:

Kashf al-Murād (pp.258-288)

- Reading, discussion, contextualisation and critical engagement with all themes of the above section of the core text. This will include examination of the justifications for the following Imāmī theological doctrines supplemented by comparative discussions with relevant insights from philosophy of religion;
 - The existence of Allah
 - The attributes of Allah including discussion of His power, freedom, knowledge, life perpetuity and the relationship of his attributes to his essence.

Learning outcomes:

On completion of this module, the successful student will be able to:

- Have a solid understanding of the theological debates and classical Imāmī justifications for their doctrines regarding the arguments for the existence of Allah, His attributes and their relation to His essence.
- Consolidate skills at reading, understanding and critically engaging with advanced classical theological argumentation and literature
- Utilize a variety of theoretical perspectives in their critical praxis
- Develop awareness of potential areas of research in theological discourse with comparative insight into related discussions in the philosophy of religion

Assessment Weighting:

- 70% Exam
- 30% Oral Exam

Learning Materials:

Core Texts:

- al-Ḥillī, Ḥasan ibn Yūsuf, *Kashf al-Murād fī Tajrīd al-I'tiqād*, (Beirut: Muassasat al-A'lā lil Maṭbū'āt, N.D)

Further Reading:

- Amili, H. M. M. A., (1989), *al-Ilāhiyyāt: Muḥādarāt Ja'far Al-Subḥānī*.
- Fakhry, Majid, (1997), *Islamic Philosophy, Theology and Mysticism*, Oxford: Oneworld
- Kassimi, Husain, (2000), *Aristotle and Aristotelianism in Medieval Muslim, Jewish, and Christian Philosophy*, Austin & Winfield Publishers
- Lalani, Arzina, (2004), *Early Shiite Thought: The Teachings of Imam Muhammad al-Baqir*, London: I.B. Tauris in Association with the Institute for Ismaili Studies
- Martin, Richard C *et al*, (1997), *Defenders of Reason in Islam: Mu'tazilism from Medieval School to Modern Symbol*, Oxford: Oneworld
- Netton, Richard Ian, (1991), *Muslim Neoplatonists: An Introduction to the Thought of the Brethren of Purity, (Islamic Surveys)*, Edinburgh: University Press
- Netton, Richard Ian, (2006), *Islamic Philosophy and Theology*, Routledge
- Sobhani, J., (2001), *Doctrines of Shi'i Islam: A Compendium of Imami Beliefs and Practices*, London, Tauris
- al-Ḥillī, Jamal al-Din Hasan ibn Yusuf Ibn Ali, *Treatise on the Principle of Shiite Theology (Al-Bab al-Hadi 'Ashar)*, - Translation by Amjad
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