

Module Title: *Kalam*: Prophethood, Imamology & Eschatology

Module Code: THEPIM

Course Duration: 17 Weeks

Teaching Method: 4 units/week

Credits: 15

Overview:

This module engages in an intensive and detailed study of the Muslim theological doctrines, arguments, and themes regarding Prophethood, Imamology and Eschatology from Shaykh al-Ṭūsī's classical text *Kashf al-Murād fī Tajrīd al-I'tiqād* (with commentary by 'Allāma al-Hillī). This module will enable students to engage in a critical textual analysis of the above classical theological text the themes discussed within. Teaching will be comparative, introducing perspectives from other religions, philosophy of religion and 'new theologian'.

Syllabus:

The intensive study of parts of the discourses on Prophethood and Imamology from *Kashf al-Murād fī Tajrīd al-I'tiqād*, (pp. 246-399). This will include topics such as:

- The necessity of sending Prophets
- The infallibility of the Prophets
- How to know a true Prophet
- Miracles of Prophets
- The prophethood of Prophet Muhammad
- The necessity of Imamology
- The infallibility of the Imams
- Imam Ali as the successor of the Prophet, and the twelve Imams

The intensive study of parts of the discourses on Eschatology from *Kashf al-Murād fī Tajrīd al-I'tiqād*, (pp. 246-399). This will include topics such as:

- The possibility of a second creation
- Debates about bodily resurrection
- Reward and punishment
- The nullification of acts and rejection of belief
- Forgiveness
- *Shafā'a*
- Repentance, its nature and categories
- Punishment in the grave and subsequent stages
- Belief
- Calling to the good and forbidding the bad

Learning outcomes:

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

- Have a solid understanding of the theological debates pertaining discussions within the subjects of Prophethood, Imamology and Eschatology
- Have knowledge of the Imamiyya theological positions and their sources.

- Engage in critical textual analysis of the classical text of *Kashf al-Murād fī Tajrīd al-I'tiqād*.
- Utilize a variety of theoretical perspectives in their critical praxis, being able to engage material comparatively and in dialectic between the classical doctrine of the Imamiyya, and contemporary questions emerging in the philosophy of religion and comparative religion.
- Have awareness of potential areas of research in theological discourse.

Assessment Weighting:

- 60% Assignment
- 40% Oral Examination

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:

- 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 Ḥasan ibn Yusuf Ibn Ali, *Treatise on the Principle of Shiite Theology (Al-Bab al-Hadi 'Ashar)*, - Translation by Amjad