

Module Title: Introduction to Muslim Philosophy

Module Code: PHIINT

Course Duration: 17 Weeks

Teaching Method: 2 units/week

Credit: 10

Overview:

The module is designed to provide students with a detailed historical background of the origins and development of the subject of Muslim philosophy, philosophical ideas, and the major philosophers, and their works. It will study the history and genealogy of ideas by situating some of the major philosophical arguments in their historical and social contexts. Moreover, it will examine the link between Greek philosophy and Islamic philosophy, and the impact that the transmission and translation of Greek philosophical texts into the Arabic language had on the articulation and expression of philosophical ideas among Muslims.

Syllabus:

- Definition, subject matter, objective and benefits of *falsafa* within the broader context of philosophy
- Relationship between Muslim philosophy and the other Muslim disciplines
- The difference between Muslim theology and Muslim philosophy
- Historical origin and development of Muslim philosophy and philosophical ideas
- The link between Greek philosophy and Muslim philosophy
- Study of brief biographies and central issues and concepts of the following prominent Muslim philosophers:
 - i. Al-Kindī (start of peripatetic philosophy)
 - ii. Al-Farābī
 - iii. Ibn Sīnā (Avicenna)
 - iv. Al-Ghazālī
 - v. Ibn Rushd (Averroes)
 - vi. Suhrāwardī (school of illumination)
 - vii. Mullā Ṣadrā (school of transcendental philosophy)
- Themes within Muslim metaphysical thought
- The merger of Muslim philosophy and theology by Naṣīr al-Dīn Ṭūsī (d.1274) and ‘Allāma Ḥillī (d.1325) into *theosophy philosophy*
- The emergence of the intellectual discipline of *transcendentalist philosophy*
- Contemporary developments in Muslim philosophy

Learning outcomes:

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

1. Discuss the definition, subject matter, aims, benefits of Muslim philosophy
2. Show an understanding of the relation between Muslim philosophy and other Muslim sciences
3. Discuss the history and development of Muslim philosophy
4. Demonstrate a critical comprehension of the main concepts and questions in Muslim philosophy
5. Evaluate and discuss the prominent Muslim philosophers and their ideas.
6. Critically analyse main points of controversy between the different schools in Muslim philosophy
7. Show a general understanding of the crossover of Muslim philosophy into mysticism and theology resulting in the disciplines of Mystical philosophy and Theosophy

Assessment Weighting:

- 100% Exam

Learning Materials:

Core Texts:

- Introduction to Muslim Philosophy Pack by AMI
- Nasr, S. H., & Leaman, O. (1996), *History of Islamic Philosophy*, London: Routledge
- Fakhry, M., (1970), *A History of Islamic Philosophy*, New York: Columbia University Press

Further Reading:

- Atiyeh, G. N., (1967), *Al-Kindi: The Philosopher of the Arabs*, Islamabad: Islamic Research Institute
- Fakhry, M., (2002), *Al-Farabi: Founder of Islamic Neo-Platonism; His Life, Works and Influence*, Great Islamic Thinkers, Oxford: Oneworld
- Goodman, L. E., (1992), *Avicenna*, Arabic Thought and Culture, London: Routledge
- Moosa, E., (2005), *Ghazālī and the Poetics of Imagination*, Chapel Hill, NC: University Of North Carolina Press
- Leaman, O., (1988), *Averroes and His Philosophy*, Oxford: Clarendon Press

- Razavi, M. A., (1997), *Suhrawardī and the School Of Illumination*, Surrey: Curzon Press
- Rizvi, S. H., (2007), *Mullā Ṣadrā Shīrāzī: His Life and Works and the Sources for Safavid Philosophy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press