



Course Title: Advanced Şadrīan Philosophy: The *Bidāyat al-Ḥikma* of ‘Allāmah Ṭabāṭabā’ī

Module Title: Quiddity and Causation (Part 2 of 4)

Module Code: PHIBID2

Course Duration: 17 weeks (2 units per week)

Assessment: 90% end of semester exam; 10% attendance and class participation

Module Description:

This module focusses on two main themes: (1) the metaphysics of causation and (2) the philosophical study of the concept of quiddity (*māhiyya*). In the first part of this module students are introduced to the concept of modality and its relation to the essence-existence distinction, and how, by a focus on the notion of composition, it is possible to show that essence and existence must be identical in the Necessary Being. Several lessons will be devoted to the concepts of necessity and possibility, and their various characteristics. In particular, students will be taken through a series of metaphysical considerations about the nature of possibility and role it has in the metaphysics of causation. Part 2 of this module is given over entirely to the concept of quiddity, its considerations, the concepts of what is essential and accidental to a quiddity, and the means by which a quiddity is individuated in extramental existence.

General Course Texts:

Izutsu, Toshihiko. *The Concept and Reality of Existence*.

Ṭabāṭabā’ī, Sayyid Muḥammad Ḥusayn. *Bidāyat al-ḥikma*. Edited by ‘Abbās ‘Alī al-Sabzawārī.
Qum: Mu’assisat al-Nashr al-Islāmī, 1431Ah.

Schedule of Classes:

Week 1: Metaphysics and Modality I

Week 2: Metaphysics and Modality II

Week 3: The Identity-Thesis

Week 4: Law of Necessitation I

Week 5: Law of Necessitation II



Week 6:	Types of Possibility
Week 7:	Possibility is an Analytical Consideration
Week 8:	Possibility and Causation I
Week 9:	Possibility and Causation II
Week 10:	Possibility and Causation III
Week 11:	The Concept of Quiddity
Week 12:	Quiddity and Its Considerations I
Week 13:	Quiddity and Its Considerations II
Week 14:	Essential and Accidental Predicates of Quiddity
Week 15:	The Existence of Universals and Particulars
Week 16:	Quiddity and Its Individuation I
Week 17:	Quiddity and Its Individuation II

* Reading lists provided in class for each of the relevant topics each week.