

**Module Title:** Islamic Theology and Philosophy  
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**Module code:** ITP

**Course duration:** 17 weeks

**Teaching method:** 4 units/week (16 lectures + 16 seminars)

**Credits:** 25

### Overview

This module examines the historical formation and continued relevance of key approaches, concepts and questions emerging from Muslim theological and philosophical engagement with fundamental Muslim beliefs such as; the nature of God, prophet-hood and the afterlife. Different doctrinal positions, and the diversity of approaches to the justification of belief will be seen in light of competing ideas regarding the nature of knowledge, reason and revelation. Methodological features and central concerns of the internally diverse and often mutually competing projects of Kalām-theology, its traditionalist responses, Falsafa-philosophy, and some important trends in Sufism will be examined with a view to gaining an appreciation of the diverse historical Muslim engagements with questions of theology and philosophy that continue to shape modes of Islamic thought today.

### Pre-requisites

Students will be required to read the minimum prescribed material (listed below), with further suggested reading provided on a weekly basis. In the case of seminars, which are student led, they will be expected to be ready to discuss the pre-set readings as a group.

### Assessment

30% continuous assessment of seminar contributions

60% end of semester exam

Weekly breakdown and readings;

Week	Lecture topics:	Seminar Readings:
	An Interactive weekly lecture will cover core knowledge and prepare students to engage with seminar reading.	In advance of each seminar <b>students will be expected to have read and be prepared</b> to discuss their understanding of the below readings. [Assessment of preparation and contribution within seminars will contribute to 30% of total marks]
1	What is Islamic Theology & Philosophy?	Al-Ghazzali Deliverance from Error ( <i>al-Munqidh min al-Dalal</i> ) Translated, with related works, by Richard J. MCCARTHY, S.J., as Freedom and Fulfilment (Boston: Twayne, 1980)
2	The emergence of Kalām and its schools (1)	Renard, John. <i>Islamic Theological Themes: A Primary Source Reader</i> . pp. 103-120.
3	The emergence of Kalām and its schools (2)	Hare, John E. <i>God's Command</i> . Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015. pp. 184-222  Al-Suyūrī, al-Fāḍil Miqdād ibn ‘Abdallāh (d. 826/1423), <i>al-Nāfi‘ yawm al-ḥashr</i> , A Treatise on the Principles of Shī‘ite Theology with Commentary by Miqdād-I-Fāḍil al-Ḥillī, trans. William McElwee Miller (London: The Royal Asiatic Society, 1928). pp. 40-42
4	Traditionalist theology: From Aḥmad Ibn Ḥanbal to Ibn Taymiyya	Abrahamov, Binyamin ‘Scriptualist and Traditionalist Theology’ in Sabine Schmidtke (ed). <i>The Oxford Handbook of Islamic Theology</i> . (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016) pp 263-279.
5	The <i>Falsafa</i> tradition (1): The translation movement & al-Farābī	Peter Adamson, <i>Philosophy in the Islamic World: A Very Short Introduction</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015) Introduction & Chapter 1 pp. 1-29
6	<i>Falsafa</i> tradition (2): Ibn Sīnā & his impact	<i>Averroës: Decisive Treatise &amp; Epistle Dedicatory</i> Charles E. Butterworth,

		trans (Provo, UT: Brigham Young University Press, 2001). pp. 1-33.
7	<i>Tasawwuf</i> and Islamic Theology	The Ringstones of Wisdom ( <i>Fusūs al-ḥikam</i> ) by Ibn al-ʿArabī, Translation, introduction, and glosses by Caner K. Dagli. (Chicago: Kazi Publications, 2004) pp. 37-50 Ch. 3 ‘Ringstone of the wisdom of glorification in the word of Noah’
8	Mullā Ṣadrā’s ‘Transcendental Wisdom’	Nasr, Seyyed Hossein ‘Mullā Ṣadrā: his teachings’ in Seyyed Hossein Nasr and Oliver Leaman (eds.) <i>History of Islamic Philosophy</i> . (London: Routledge, 1996) pp. 643-660
9	Revisiting – “What is Islamic Theology & Philosophy?”	Al-Ghazzali Deliverance from Error ( <i>al-Munqidh min al-Dalal</i> ) Translated, with related works, by Richard J. MCCARTHY, S.J., as Freedom and Fulfilment (Boston: Twayne, 1980)
10	God and His Existence	Shihadeh, Ayman. “The existence of God.” In <i>The Cambridge Companion to Classical Islamic Theology</i> . Ed. Tim Winter, 197-217. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2008. Ebook
11	God’s Existence and His Nature.	Mayer, Toby. “Ibn Sīnā’s ‘Burhān al-Ṣiddīqīn’.” <i>Journal of Islamic Studies</i> 12.1 (2001): 18-39.
12	Evil in Islamic Theology and Philosophy	Muṭahharī, Murtaḍā. <i>Divine Justice</i> (‘Adl e Ilāhī). Trans. Sulaymān Ḥasan ‘Ābidī, Murtaḍā ‘Alīdīnā and Shujā’ ‘Alī Mīrzā. Qum, Iran: International Centre for Islamic Studies, 2004. pp. 127-182
13	Prophethood: Nature and purpose	Al-Tusi and al-Allama al-Hilli on Prophecy in Classical Islam (Calder et el, 2003) pp. 166-169  AND  Griffel, Frank, “Muslim Philosopher’s Rationalist Explanation of Muḥammad’s Prophecy.” In

		<i>Cambridge Companion to Muḥammad</i> , ed. Jonathan E. Brockopp, 158-179. (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2009), 158-179
14	Imāma in Shī'ī Theology: Necessity & Impeccability	Abdulsater, Hussein Ali. <i>Shi'ī Doctrine, Mu'tazili Theology : Al-Sharīf Al-Murtaḍā and Imami Discourse</i> . Edinburgh, 2017 pp. 151-181
15	Death and the Nature of the Afterlife	Khalil, Mohammad Hassan. <i>Islam and the Fate of Others: The Salvation Question</i> . (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2012) Chapter 1
16	Islam and the Salvation Question	Al-Qummī, Mīrza "Is every mujtahid correct or not?" from <i>al-Qawānīn al-uṣūl</i> . Trans. Ali-Reza Bhojani (unpublished)