

## THE VISION OF ISLAM (HONS 251, Spring 2013)

Instructor: Omar Mirza  
Office: 365C Centennial Hall  
Office Hours: MW 1pm-4pm (email)  
TuTh 9am-11am (office, appointment required,  
please contact me 24 hours in advance via email)  
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Phone: 308-5155  
Lectures: TuTh 2pm-3:15pm  
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**Description of Course** This course will provide an introduction to the practice of philosophy through a careful and detailed reading of texts by classical Islamic thinkers. Our goal will be to use these texts as an inspiration for developing our own thoughts. In other words, we will gain experience in the actual process of philosophical thinking, rather than merely studying the philosophy that others produced.

### **Required Reading**

*The Qur'an* (Oxford World's Classics) (Paperback) by M. A. Abdel Haleem (Editor).  
*The Life of the Prophet Muhammad: A Brief History* by Marmaduke William Pickthall.  
*Medieval Islamic Philosophical Writings* by M. A. Khalidi (Editor).

**Prerequisites** None

**Grading** I will now describe how exactly your grades will be calculated. This way of assigning your grades is not negotiable.

Your grades will be determined by your performance in three written, take home assignments. Each of these will be worth 50 points, and your two best scores will be added to get a final score of 100 points. Your grade will then be assigned, on the basis of this final score, according to the following chart

F	Grade
95+	A
90+	A-
85+	B+
80+	B
70+	B-
60+	C+
50+	C
40+	C-

30+	D+
20+	D
10+	D-
<10	F

This chart should be read in the following way: final scores which are greater than or equal to 95 will earn a final grade of A, final scores which are greater than or equal to 90 will earn a final grade of A-, final scores which are greater than or equal to 85 will earn a final grade of B+, and so on. Note that final scores will not be rounded up or down. In other words, if you have a final score of 94.999, you will still get an A-.

**Attendance** There is no attendance policy, and no need to contact the professor to explain your absence. *It is very important that you make at least a couple of friends in the class, people who you can contact if you have missed the lecture and need to catch up on the material covered.*

**Class Conduct Requirement:** Everyone is required to conduct themselves in a dignified, respectful, and professional manner during class and during office hours.

This requirement entails, but is not limited to, avoiding the following: obscenity; derogatory comments about someone based on their race, gender, religion, political views, or sexual orientation; wearing clothing with any of the above expressed on it in written form; talking while the professor is lecturing; leaving in the middle of class without prior permission; persistently showing up to class late without any legitimate reason; failure to pay attention to what is going on; disruptive behavior; exhibiting a disrespectful attitude to the class, the lecturer or the other students; and so on.

If any student engages in conduct similar to that which has been described above, then I may, entirely at my discretion, decide to lower the student's final grade by a third of a grade for each offense committed. For example, let's say you got an A based on your homeworks and your midterm and final. If you committed one offense, then your grade could be reduced to A-; if you committed two offenses, then your grade could be reduced to B+; if you committed three offenses, then your grade could be reduced to a B; and so on.

**Email Communication** All students are required to have working SCSU email addresses, and to check these every day. There will be emails containing updates and other announcements from Professor Mirza throughout the semester, and each student is responsible for reading these and keeping either an electronic or paper record of them.

*This syllabus is only a very general guide. There will be further emails to add new policies not explicitly mentioned here, and you will be required to follow those as well.*

**Final Policy** There is no final examination for this course. Either the final paper will be handed in during our scheduled final time, or we will use that time to hold a paper writing workshop.

**Late Work Policy** The three essays will have deadlines. For the first two essays, each deadline will come with a grace period of a few days, so that if one is forced to miss the deadline due to an emergency, one will have the option of handing in the essay before the grace period is over, without suffering any penalty. *No work will be accepted after the grace period is over, for any reason at all.*

The final essay will not have any grace period associated with it.