

Syllabus

Professor: Nuha Alshaar

[922074] Filosofia e Ética nas Sociedades Islâmicas – 1.º Semestre 2023/2024

Philosophy and Ethics in Islamic Societies

This course examines the rich traditions of *falsafa* (philosophy) in Muslim societies from the pre-modern period to the modern. It discusses the important contributions made by philosophers operating in the Islamic East as well as the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal) to key questions, including, free will and reason versus revelation, arguments for the existence of God and concerning God's nature, the attainment of happiness, the relationship between body and mind, the purification of the soul and refinement of character, friendship, Justice, and animal rights.

Please note that the Timetable is tentative and subject to change

Topics to be covered in the course.

Week 1: Introduction to *falsafa* in Islamic Context

Week 2: Introduction to *falsafa* in Islamic Context

Week 3: The issue of reason versus revelation/ reconciling religion and philosophy

Week 4 Ibn Tufayl's Hay b. Yaqzan

Week 5 Ibn Rushd on Reason and Revelation

Week 6: arguments for the existence of God and concerning God's nature.

Week 7: The Attainment of Happiness /Farabi

Week 8: Virtue Ethics and the Purification of the Soul/ Yahiya b. 'Adi and the Brethren of Purity

Week 9: Friendship Abu Hayyan al-Tawhidi and Ahmad b. Miskawayhi

Week 10: Justice / Ahmad b. Miskawayhi

Week 11: On the classification of animals / man versus animal

Week 12: Contemporary Islamic thought/ Muḥammad Iqbāl (d. 1938): The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam.

Week 13: [Student -presentations](#)

Week 14: [Student -presentations](#)

Formative Assessment:

Provide students with feedback throughout their learning, and presentation and peer-feedback on the presentation.

Summative Assessment:

The assessment for this course consists of two parts:

Individual presentation on a topic related to this course. To be decided in consultation with the instructor. This constitutes 40% of the final grade.

Written test that constitutes 50 % of the final grade.

Participation and attendance are mandatory, and they constitute 10% of the total grade.

Secondary sources

All readings required for the course will be circulated via the course Fenix page or emailed to students.

The following books are recommended:

Akasoy, A., and Giglioni, G. (eds.), *Renaissance Averroism and its Aftermath: Arabic Philosophy in Early Modern Europe*, Dordrecht: Springer, 2013.

Adamson, Peter, *The Cambridge Companion of Arabic Philosophy*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

El-Rouayheb, Khaled and Schmidtke, Sabine (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Islamic Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Reinhart, Kevin, *Before Revelation: The Boundaries of Muslim Moral Thought*, New York: Suny Press, 1995.

Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy (online).