



**Faculty of Arts**  
**School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures**

*Updated January 4, 2022*

**ALMC 360.6**  
**Topics in Muslim Literatures (Islamic Cosmology)**  
**WINTER 2022**  
(MW 9:30am-10:45am)

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME:** Hany Ibrahim, PhD

**OFFICE HOURS:** By online appointment

**CLASSROOM LOCATION:** PF 2280

**E-MAIL:** [hany.ibrahim@ucalgary.ca](mailto:hany.ibrahim@ucalgary.ca)

**INSTRUCTOR'S E-MAIL POLICY:** Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email, and I will respond to emails sent via student's @ucalgary emails within 48 hours.

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** N/A

**DESCRIPTION**

This course offers an in-depth exploration of Islamic cosmological doctrines. In the course we will examine literary texts within the context of the rich, diverse traditions and cultures of predominantly Muslim societies of the world. Through close engagement with the work of both pre-modern and contemporary scholars, we will work to gain a better understanding of how the theoretical concerns of Islamic cosmology relate to such issues of global concern such as the nature of being and knowledge, the relationship between love and scriptural hermeneutics, the practical and theoretical dimensions of Islamic mysticism, the phenomenon of religious diversity, the ecological crisis, the nature of education and learning, and the relationship between religion and secularism.

**OBJECTIVES**

By the completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Understand the methods employed by scholars in studying cosmological doctrines in Islam.
- Become acquainted with various topics on the Islamic worldview.
- Recognize the different modes of textual analysis and interpretation of primary texts.
- Articulate the debates within the field of the academic study of Islamic thought.
- Apply a theoretical perspective to primary Muslim texts.
- Write well-researched academic papers on the topics of "Islamic cosmology" that is free of grammatical and syntactical errors and uses proper citation and bibliographic style.

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

- William Chittick, *In Search of the Lost Heart: Explorations in Islamic Thought*, ed. Mohammed Rustom, Atif Khalil and Kazuyo Murata (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2012). (ISBN: 978-1-4384-3936-5)



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A request has been sent out to the University of Calgary's bookstore to provide the course's textbook in **electronic format** (eBook). So please check the availability of the textbook/eBook with the UofC bookstore or see the publisher's website <https://www.sunypress.edu/p-5284-in-search-of-the-lost-heart.aspx> There is also an online version of the book which is available online through the UCalgary library.

**RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS**

Other required readings may be posted on the D2L site for this course.

**COURSE NOTES**

**Elements for this Course:**

The weekly lectures will be delivered on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30am to 10:45am. Students will need to read the assigned reading material as well as to independently research and learn any background material needed to understand the readings and lectures. If students have any questions or issues regarding the content of the course (lectures and readings) please contact the instructor via email during business hours for clarification. Students are expected to keep up with the reading schedule.

**Syllabus:**

A complete syllabus (class schedule) will be made available the first week of classes and posted to D2L shortly prior to that date.

**Class Schedule:**

The course is organized on a lecture basis following the topics and readings listed in the tentative schedule of lectures and readings posted on D2L. Availability of course material and submission dates will not be changed to accommodate personal scheduling preferences of students, including work schedules, vacations, camping trips, and the repair of personal computers.

**Conduct:**

Students should be prepared to read any posted material and follow the weekly lectures. If you do not understand the material, it is up to you to find and read supplementary material (i.e. online academic journals, UofC library online sources, ... etc.) in order for you to understand it. The instructor will not respond to emails which, in his view, ask questions which, with a little effort or re-reading, can be answered for yourself. If you have a question, at my discretion I will either respond to your email or defer response to an online office hour where I will respond to questions or issues which may be helpful for the whole class.

Emails must be sent to the instructor from a University of Calgary email account. Please do NOT send from other accounts, such as Gmail or Hotmail. Please include the subject of your email and clearly identify yourself by name and the course number you are registered in. Inquiries related to submissions must be sent no less than 24 hours before a deadline. If you have a technical issue with an online submission, please email me as soon as possible to resolve the situation. The instructor may reply to emails only on business days, and only between business hours from 9:00am-5:00pm.



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Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

**Learning Technologies and Requirements:**

There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see [d2L.ucalgary.ca](http://d2l.ucalgary.ca)).

**For Online, Remote or Blended Courses:**

To successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote, and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates.
- A current and updated web browser.
- Webcam (built-in or external), or headset with microphone.
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled.
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker, and microphone.

**Use of Internet and Electronic Communication Devices in Class:**

Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/electronic-communications-policy.pdf>

**Guidelines for Zoom Sessions:**

If video conferencing tools such as Zoom or MS Teams will be used during course activities, provide information related to student learning and conduct, and indicate whether these sessions will be recorded.

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a "live" video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed, or published without the instructor's permission.



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The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the [Code of Conduct](#)). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#)). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit:

<https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>.

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

### **Course Evaluations and Student Feedback**

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and Faculty course evaluation forms. A midterm evaluation may also be included to provide students an opportunity to provide feedback, for the instructor to adjust their approaches to teaching and learning, and to continuously improve the course. Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course with the instructor after the end of classes.

## **ASSESSMENT**

### **General Formatting Guidelines**

Essays are to be ten full pages in length (excluding the title page and bibliography), double spaced, and written in Times New Roman font (size twelve). Use footnotes as opposed to endnotes and/or internal citations. Footnotes are to be single spaced and written in Times New Roman font (size ten). A bibliography must be appended to the essay. The method of citation must follow the rules laid out in the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Essays must have a title page.



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**Specific Formatting Guidelines**

1. All pages—excluding the title page and bibliography—are to be numbered at the bottom right corner of the page. You must have your name and student ID clearly indicated on each page of the essay.
2. Pages must use the normal page layout which comes standard on all Word programs, and page numbers must be on the bottom right corner of the page.
3. Diction is to be formal, and each piece is to be written in Canadian English. Grammar, syntax, spelling, and style must be impeccable. You may write in the first person.
4. At the top right of the first page of your report, include the course code, your full name, and the assignment's due date. This should be in Times New Roman font (size 12). At the top left of the first page of your essay, include the main title of the chosen article in italics, Times New Roman font (size 12).
5. All paragraphs—except the first paragraph of your essay—must be indented. Every paragraph of the paper—including isolated quotations—must be justified. This can be done by using the “paragraph” function on your Word program.
6. If you want to directly cite from the article in your essay, provide the passage in quotation marks, and do not put your quotations in italics, bold, or a combination of the two.
7. Quotes or citations which are more than 3 lines long are to be isolated, single spaced, and reduced to font size 11 with their margins indented to 1 inch on both the right and left. This can be done by using the “paragraph” function on your Word program.

**Evaluation:**

Each essay is graded out of 25 and is worth 25% of the total course mark. Each essay will be evaluated in terms of (1) the quality of its language, including grammar, spelling, and style; (2) offer an effective summary of the texts in question; and, most importantly, (3) demonstrate to me, through your analysis of the work, that you have given considerable thought to the issue(s) raised by the author; (4) evidence of original research and its careful integration into the fabric of the essay; and (5) faithful adherence to the formatting guidelines mentioned above.

**Penalties:**

**Missed or Late Assignments:**

**Essays not handed in on their respective due dates will receive a mark of zero. Absolutely no exceptions will be made to this rule.** If a student misses a submission deadline due to illness or an emergency, the student **MUST** contact the instructor within 24 hours of the absence. If the student does not contact the instructor within 24 hours of the absence (unless there are extenuating circumstances), the student will not be provided an opportunity to make up for the missed assignment and will receive a numerical mark of zero.

**Without an acceptable reason missed submissions will be awarded an ‘F’.** Plagiarized essays will be handled by the Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts.



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**Extra Assignments:**

There are **NO** extra assignments for this course. Students will **NOT** be given an opportunity to submit extra work to increase their grade.

**Assessment Components:**

**Guidelines for Essay# 1**

**Instructions**

Write a ten-page double-spaced essay on **an article of your choice from the readings in Part I- Body, Mind, and Soul** in William Chittick's book *In Search of the Lost Heart*. The first half of your assignment will offer a general summary of the article in question, and the second will offer your analysis of the author's arguments in the article. This assignment is designed to provide you with an opportunity to think critically about this important book. It will also help you hone your academic writings skills.

**Due Date**

Essays are due on **Monday Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:30am at the beginning of class.**

**Guidelines for Essay# 2**

**Instructions**

Write a ten-page double-spaced essay on **an article of your choice from the readings in Part II- Metaphysics and Cosmology** in William Chittick's book *In Search of the Lost Heart*. The first half of your assignment will offer a general summary of the article in question, and the second will offer your analysis of the author's arguments in the article. This assignment is designed to provide you with an opportunity to think critically about this important book. It will also help you hone your academic writings skills.

**Due Date**

Essays are due on **Monday Mar. 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am at the beginning of class.**

**Guidelines for Essay# 3**

**Instructions**

Write a ten-page double-spaced essay on **an article of your choice from the readings in Part III- Epistemology and Eschatology** in William Chittick's book *In Search of the Lost Heart*. The first half of your assignment will offer a general summary of the article in question, and the second will offer your analysis of the author's arguments in the article. This assignment is designed to provide you with an opportunity to think critically about this important book. It will also help you hone your academic writings skills.

**Due Date**

Essays are due on **Monday Mar. 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am at the beginning of class.**



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Guidelines for Essay# 4

Instructions

Write a ten-page double-spaced essay on an article of your choice from the readings in Part IV-War, Ecology, Pluralism, and Education in William Chittick’s book In Search of the Lost Heart. The first half of your assignment will offer a general summary of the article in question, and the second will offer your analysis of the author’s arguments in the article. This assignment is designed to provide you with an opportunity to think critically about this important book. It will also help you hone your academic writings skills.

Due Date

Essays are due via email submission on Monday Apr. 11th at 9:30am.

Table with 4 columns: Due Date, Assignment, Weight (%), Required to pass the course. Rows include: In class on Jan. 31st (Essay# 1, 25%), In class on Mar. 7th (Essay# 2, 25%), In class on Mar. 28th (Essay# 3, 25%), Via email on Apr.11th (Essay# 4, 25%).

GRADING SCALE

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme: https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html

Table with 6 columns: A+, 100 – 96%, A, 95 – 90%, A-, 89 – 85%, B+, 84 – 80%, B, 79 – 75%, B-, 74 – 70%, C+, 69 – 65%, C, 64 – 60%, C-, 59 – 55%, D+, 54 – 53%, D, 52 – 50%, F, Under 50%

Adjusted Final Grades:

The instructor will implement a standard measure of adjustment (.5%) for final grades. For example, a final grade of 62.5% (C-) will be rounded up to 63% (C). Please do NOT send email inquiries asking the instructor to increase or ‘round up’ your final grade.

INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT

All members of the University community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Statement on Principles of Conduct, and to comply with the University of Calgary Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures (available at: http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html).

Academic misconduct

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student’s academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized



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assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-policy>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

#### **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

#### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT**

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>

for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

#### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations> .

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>)

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need,





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preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

**FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES**

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate>

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca).

**INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

**SUPPORT AND RESOURCES**

Links to information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> .