

CATHOLICISM & SHIITE ISLAM

TRADITIONS IN DIALOGUE

REL 273 (Spring 2020)
MW 2:30-3:45 pm (Chambers 2068)

WHAT IS IT ABOUT? (Previously Course Description)

Our course is a study of two traditions, Catholic Christianity and Shiite Islam, and of the two together, i.e., relationally, comparatively and dialogically. A substantial background of the two traditions (offered by instructors in SECTION I “Introduction to Catholicism” & II “Introduction to Shiite Islam”) will set us up to then observe and probe in SECTION III the similarities and points of departure between the two traditions, and dialogue (whether existent or potential) that could occur between their proponents. Put differently, if they happen to have a chance encounter with one another and grow in familiarity with the other side, what would the thinkers and adherents of the two traditions see and say to one another, and why? How would they respond to each other’s questions? Our intellectual journey this spring is trying to capture such an encounter and dialogue. Optional and subject to reevaluation in light of how our conversations proceed, SECTION IV will take up certain themes of shared investment for both traditions, for example, their negotiation with modernity and secularism.

THE ROADMAP

SEE MOODLE FOR CALENDAR OF READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS

Disabilities: A student who requires accommodation for a documented disability of any type should see the instructor immediately to discuss modifications to course requirements. “Davidson College values the diversity of its community and is an equal access institution that admits otherwise qualified applicants without regard to disability. The college seeks to accommodate requests for accommodations related to disability that are determined to be reasonable and do not compromise the integrity of a program or curriculum. To make such a request or to begin a conversation about a possible request, please contact Beth Bleil, Director of Academic Access and Disability Resources, in the Center for Teaching and Learning by visiting her office in the E.H. Little Library, by emailing her at bebleil@davidson.edu, or by calling 704-894-2129. It is best to submit accommodation requests within the drop/add period; however, requests can be made at any time in the semester. Please keep in mind that accommodations are not retroactive.”

Honor and Conscience: The College expects students to fully abide by the Honor Code. The instructor wonders about our conscience and the convergence/divergence between the two.

Prof. Andy Lustig [**Office:** Chambers 2023; **Phone:** (704) 894 2291]

Email: anlustig@davidson.edu

Meeting Hours: TTH 2-4 pm (or by appointment)

Prof. Syed Rizwan Zamir [**Office:** Eumenean Hall 104; **Phone:** (704) 894 2950]

Email: rizamir@davidson.edu (Saturdays I disappear; on Sunday I slowly re-emerge)

Meeting Hours: MW 12-1:30 pm

LEARNING OUTCOMES

A NOTE:

If going through the course of our study will inspire joy of learning and experience of relevance of these themes to our lives, it will be an excellent learning outcome. Yet making the class more relevant to you personally is something that will require your engagement and deeper investment. Feel free to talk to the instructor about ways in which you (or/and the instructor) could contribute in achieving those learning outcomes, personally and as a collective group.

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INSTRUCTORS':

It is expected that by the end of the class, the participants will have:

By the end of this course, students will be able to

1. situate Roman Catholic and Shiite thought and practice within their historical context;
2. compare and contrast claims of Catholic and Shiite appeals to Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the function of the teaching and religious authority;
3. assess the distinctively Catholic understandings of the relationship between faith and reason, natural law and Revelation;
4. become familiar with several types of spirituality that have influenced Catholic and Shiite approaches to piety;
5. compare and contrast the major elements of Catholic and Shiite liturgy and devotional practices;
6. appreciate the key norms and values developed in modern Catholic social teaching;
7. model in our classroom the requirements of respectful interreligious dialogue.

YOURS?

INTELLECTUAL PRACTICES (Previously Course Requirements/Assignments)

Various “Intellectual Practices” are in place as “building blocks” to help deepen comprehension and build synthesis. Reviews seek to ensure that we have learned the basics; other Intellectual Practices require engagement and reflection upon texts and themes of our study this term.

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1. TWO REVIEWS (40%)
 - a. FIRST Review - Catholicism (20%)
 - b. SECOND Review - Shiism (20%)
2. GROUP Class Teaching Session (16%)
3. FINAL Paper (20%)
4. PARTICIPATION (24%)
 - a. Google Doc (7% + 7% = 14%)
 - b. Participation throughout the semester (10%)
 - c. NOTE: If you miss more than TWO meetings you lose [5%] of your final grade.

TEXT-GUIDES

(Available at the Bookstore and on reserve in the library)

Compendium: Catechism of the Catholic Church 1st Edition

by [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops](#) (Author) From <https://amzn.to/2QTolQF>

The Light of Christ: An Introduction to Catholicism Paperback – August 4, 2017

by [Thomas Joseph White](#) (Author) From <https://amzn.to/2R8dcFt>

What is Shi'i Islam? (Routledge Persian and Shi'i Studies) 1st Edition

by [Mohammad Ali Amir-Moezzi](#) (Author), [Christian Jambet](#) (Author) From <https://amzn.to/2XAsGTe>

Roman Catholics and Shi'i Muslims: Prayer, Passion, and Politics Paperback – August 25, 2003

by [James A. Bill](#) (Author), [John Alden Williams](#) (Author) From <https://amzn.to/2KWQMms>