

SC-533: Introduction to Shi'i Islam

Fall 2017

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Tuesdays, 4:00-6:45 PM

Course Description: This course provides a historical study of the development of Shi'i Islam against the backdrop of key events such the succession crisis and Occultation (*Ghayba*), and the formation of Shi'i states such as the Buwayhids, Safavids, Qajars and Modern Iran. It will introduce students to various theories and debates regarding the origins and development of Shi'i Islam through examining primary (in translation) and secondary sources. There will be a specific focus on Shi'i jurisprudence, theology, *hadith* and Quranic studies, including the Shi'i approach to the textual history of the Qur'an and its alleged distortion (*tahrif*). The course will also examine contemporary Shi'i communities around the world. By enabling students to develop a systematic understanding of the evolution of Shi'i Islam, the course will serve as a basis for more advanced courses. No previous knowledge of Islam or Arabic is required.

Course Objectives:

-By the end of this course, students will have developed an understanding of modern day Shi'ism and the evolution of Shi'i Islam, appropriate to introductory level.

-It will prepare the students for more advanced and specific modules on Shi'i Islam.

-Students will have a clear understanding of Shi'i history, theology, jurisprudence and approach to the Qur'an in comparison to Sunni Islam.

-Students will have an insight into modern Shi'i communities around the world.

The module will develop key skills such as:

- retrieving and utilising resources to which they have been directed
- identifying resources on their own initiative
- assessing the suitability and quality of resources
- planning and successful completion of written assignments
- self-organization and time-management
- self reliance and self criticism

Identified Seminary Learning Outcomes: Only those directly addressed by the course from MARS, MATLS, DMIN, or PHD outcomes – **only list outcome statement not the characteristics. Here is the full listing –**

Master of Arts in Religious Studies: Learning Outcomes

1. To demonstrate foundational and critical knowledge of one's own religion by: the study of the key events and concepts surrounding the origins and development of Shi'ism. The

students will grasp various theories regarding the origins and development of Shi'ism through critically analysing the views of various classical and modern Shi'i, Sunni and European and North American scholars on the subject.

2. To demonstrate the knowledge, capacities, and willingness to respectfully engage other religions and world views by: examining different perspectives on the study of Shi'i Islam and comparing it with Sunnism and Christianity wherever possible. The module will broaden students' understanding of Shi'i Islam and its relations with other religions and world views.
3. To demonstrate knowledge of the practices of one's own religious tradition and the capacity to appreciate the practices of other religious traditions by: studying the common concepts and interactions between Shi'ism, Sunnism and Christianity.
4. To demonstrate knowledge and skills for dialogical and constructive engagement with diversity by focusing on the common themes and values (as opposed to points of conflict which are often constructed to serve non-religious goals and ambitions) between Shi'ism and other religions and world views, and encouraging students to see beyond common perceptions.
5. To demonstrate the ability to relate theory and practice in the social contexts in which a religion's communities exist, by studying the modern Shi'i communities and their religious, social and cultural structures around the world.

Doctor of Ministry: Learning Outcomes

1. To demonstrate the knowledge, capacities, and willingness to respectfully engage the religious pluralism of contemporary American society through exposure to the teachings of other faiths and those who practice those faiths.

Required Texts & Readings:

Haider, Najam. *Shi'i Islam: An Introduction*. Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Hussain, Jassim M. *The Occultation of the Twelfth Imam: A Historical Background*. UK: Muhammadi Trust, 1982.

Madelung, Wilferd. *The Succession to Muhammad: A Study of the Early Caliphate*. Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Momen, Moojan. *An Introduction to Shi'i Islam: The History and Doctrines of Twelver Shi'ism*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1985

al-Mufid, Shaykh. *Kitab Al-Irshad*. Tahrike Tarsile Quran, 1982.

Steward, Devin J. *Islamic Legal Orthodoxy: Twelver Shiite Responses to the Sunni Legal System*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1998.

Walbridge, Linda Strickland. *The Thread of Mu'awiya: The Making of a Marja' Taqlid*, Indiana: The Ramsey Press, 2014.

Pierce, Matthew. *Twelve Infallible Men: The Imams and the Making of Shi'ism*. US: Harvard University Press, 2016.

Heern, M. Zackery. *The Emergence of Modern Shi'ism*, London: Oneworld Publications, 2015.

Recommended Reading:

Modarressi, Hossein. *Crisis and Consolidation in the Formative Period of Shi'ite Islam*, Princeton, 1993.

Amir-Moezzi, Mohammad Ali. (David Streight, trans. And ed.). *The Divine Guide in Early Shi'ism: The Sources of Esotericism in Islam*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1994.

Amir-Moezzi, Mohammad Ali. *The Silent Qur'an and the Speaking Qur'an: Scriptural Sources of Islam Between History and Fervor*. Translated by Eric Ormsby. Columbia University Press, 2015.

Algar, Hamid. *Religion and State in Iran 1785-1906: The Role of the Ulama in the Qajar Period*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1969.

Corboz, Elvire. *Guardians of Shi'ism: Sacred Authority and Transnational Family Networks*. Edinburgh, Edinburgh University Press, 2016.

Haider, Najam. *The Origins of the Shi'a: Identity, Ritual, and Sacred Space in Eighth-Century Kūfa*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Ayoub, Mahmoud. 'Redemptive Suffering in Islam: A Study of the Devotional Aspects of `Ashura' in Twelver Shi'ism. The Hague: Mouton Publishers, 1978.

Mahmoud, Ayoub. 'The Speaking Qur'ān and the Silent Qur'ān: A Study of the Principles and Development of Imāmī Shī'ī Tafsīr'. In *Approaches to the History of the Interpretation of the Qur'ān*, edited by Andrew Rippin, 177–98. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1988.

Newman, Andrew J. *Safavid Iran: Rebirth of a Persian Empire*. New York: I. B. Tauris, 2009.

Newman, Andrew J. *Twelver Shiism: Unity and Diversity in the Life of Islam, 632 to 1722*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2013.

Arjomand, Said Amir. *The Shadow of God and the Hidden Imam*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1984.

Khoemeini, Imam. *Islam and Revolution: Writings and Declarations of Imam Khomeini (1941-1980)*. Translated by Hamid Algar. Berkeley: Mizan Press, 1981.

- al-Khū'ī, Sayyid Abū al-Qāsim al-Mūsāwi. *The Prolegomena to the Qur'ān*. Translated by Abdulaziz A. Sachedina. Qum: Ansariyan Publications, 2000.
- Moussavi, Ahmad Kazemi. *Religious Authority in Shi'ite Islam*. Kuala Lumpur: International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization, 1996.
- Modarressi, Hossein. *An Introduction to Shī'ī Law: A Bibliographical Study*. London: Ithaca Press, 1984.
- Modarressi, Hossein. 'Early Debates on the Integrity of the Qur'ān: A Brief Survey'. *Studia Islamica*, no. 77 (1 January 1993): 5–39.
- Modarressi, Hossein. *Tradition and Survival: A Bibliographical Survey of Early Shiite Literature*. Vol. 1. Oxford: Oneworld, 2003.
- Modarressi, Hossein. *An Introduction to Shī'ī Law: A Bibliographical Study*. London: Ithaca Press, 1984.
- Daftary, Farhad. *A History of Shi'i Islam*. London : New York: I.B.Tauris, 2013.
- Brunner, Ranie and Werner Ende, eds. *The Twelver Shia in Modern Times: Religious Culture and Political History*. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2001.
- Keddie, Nikki R., ed. *Religion and Politics in Iran: Shi'ism from Quietism to Revolution*. New Haven ; London: Yale University Press, 1983.
- Dakake, Maria. *The Charismatic Community: Shi'ite Identity in Early Islam*. Albany NY: State University of New York Press, 2007.
- Gleave, Robert. *Inevitable doubt: Two Theories of Shi'i Jurisprudence*, Leiden, Brill, 2000.
- Halm, Heinz. *Shi'a Islam: From Religion to Revolution*. Princeton, NJ: Markus Wiener, 1997.
- al-Nawbakhti, Ibn Musa, al-Hasan. Trans. Abbas Kadhim. *Shi'a Sects: Kitab Firq Al-Shi'a*. UK: ICAS, 2007.
- Kohlberg, Etan. *Belief and Law in Imami Shi'ism*. Aldershot, Variorum Reprints, Collected Studies, 1991.
- Sachedina, Abdulaziz A. *Islamic Messianism: The Idea of the Mahdi in Twelver Shi'ism*. Albany NY: State University of New York Press, 1981.
- Sachedina, Abdulaziz A. *The Just Ruler in Shī'ite Islam: The Comprehensive Authority of the Jurist in Imamite Jurisprudence*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.

Tabataba'i, 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husain. *Shi'ite Islam*. London: George Allen & Unwin, 1975.

Takim, Liyakat. *The Heirs of the Prophet: Charisma and Religious Authority in Shi'ite Islam*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2006.

Takim, Liyakat. *Shi'ism in America*. New York: New York University Press, 2009.

Abdulsater, Hussein Ali. *Shi'i Doctrine, Mu'tazili Theology Al-Sharif Al-Murtada and Imami Discourse*. Edinburgh: Edinburg University Press, 2017.

Walbridge, Linda S. *Without Forgetting the Imam: Lebanese Shi'ism in an American Community*. Wayne State University Press, 1996.

Course Assignments and Learning Outcome Assessment objective covered:

Assignment	Due Date(s)	Learning Outcome(s) assessed by assignment	% of final course grade
Active Participation	TBA		30%
Reflection Paper	TBA	MA #1	20%
Final Project	TBA	MA #4 and #5 DMIN#3	50%

Course Expectations and Classroom Policies:

Attendance Policy: Active attendance in class is required. If you know you will be unable to attend a class session please inform the professor in advance. Missing two sessions will result in an automatic lowering of your final grade by 10%. Missing three or more sessions will result in automatic failure of the course.

3 - 4 or more absences --- without a serious reason should be an automatic failure. We might want to discuss this further, but if a student misses 25% of class for any reason except a dire emergency it should be a failure or withdraw.

For online courses - 3-4 or more weeks without posts equal 3-4 class absences and will be dealt with in the same manner as above.

The student handbook specifies the policy for DMin, which also fits the intensive or 5 day courses which is essentially if 25% of course is missed then the student fails the course. Students who are forced to miss a class session should contact the faculty member teaching the course to make arrangements to complete any coursework. In no case may Doctor of Ministry students miss more than one and a half day-long sessions per course per semester (in courses that meet on the D.Min. schedule for five days in a semester) and still successfully complete the requirements of the course.

Written assignment policy: Students are expected to write a 3000-word essay on a topic that will be provided in the second week of the teaching term. The essay will count 50% towards their final mark.

Essays must be submitted printed with the main text in a 12-point font with double line spacing. Footnotes or endnotes may be at a reduced font size (minimum 10-point) and may be single spaced. Word counts must be included on the first page of the essay. The essays must follow Turabian style guide.

For additional information on format, proper footnotes, acknowledgments, etc., students are directed to consult the *Hartford Seminary General Guidelines for a Research Paper*. These guidelines can be picked up in the student forms center or downloaded from our website at: <http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/student-writing-resources/>. Students may also consult Kate L. Turabian's, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, (6th Edition, University of Chicago Press, 1996), upon which the guidelines are based. Seminary research paper guide <http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/student-writing-resources/>

Word count

The 3000-word count should **include**: all text, all footnotes or endnotes, all non-statistical appendices, all tables (all of this will be done automatically by a word-processor word count), and all words (e.g. captions) associated with pictorial illustrations (these will have to be counted by hand if the words fall within the picture boundary of the graphic). In addition, each graphic (graphs, diagrams and pictorial illustrations) should be counted as an extra 20 words.

The following should **not be** included in the word count: the bibliography, the title page (and any illustrations on it), and any acknowledgements or non-substantive preface.

Marking Penalties

Length in excess of stated limit:

- Between 5% and 20%: ten mark penalty
- Between 20% and 50%: twenty mark penalty
- Above 50%: mark of zero

Presentations – 8 minutes.

Allowable Sources – Around 70 percent of the essay must rely on academic books and journal articles. 30 percent may rely on other sources.

Seminary Grading Scale

A (95-100) Demonstrates excellent mastery of the subject matter, a superior ability to articulate this, and provides helpful connections to daily life or contemporary issues. Exceeds expectations of the course.

- A- (90-94) Demonstrates mastery of the subject matter, ability to articulate this well, and makes connections to daily life or contemporary issues. Exceeds expectations of the course.
- B+(87-89) Demonstrates a very good understanding of the subject matter, able to articulate lessons learned in the assignment well. Meets expectations of the course.
- B (83-86) Demonstrates an understanding of the subject matter and the ability to articulate lessons learned. Meets expectations of the course.
- B-(80-82) Demonstrates an understanding of the material at hand, has some difficulty articulating this, and basic connection of the material to daily life or contemporary issues/life. Meets basic expectations for the course.
- C+(77-79) Demonstrates a basic comprehension of the subject matter, weak articulation and connections. Does not meet expectations for the course.
- C (70-76) Demonstrates a minimal comprehension of the subject matter and has difficulty making connections. Does not meet expectations of the course.
- F (below 70) Unable to meet the basic requirements of the course.

- Grades range from A to C and F; A+'s and C-'s are not part of the grading system.

DMin students are graded on fail, low-pass, pass, high-pass. High Pass(95-100), Pass (83-94), Low Pass(70-82), and Fail(below 70)

Email Policy: The instructor will use the official Hartsem student email addresses for all communications. Please check your Hartsem email account regularly.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity: Academic honesty and integrity are expected of all students.

Plagiarism exists when: a) the work submitted was done, in whole or in part, by anyone other than the one submitting the work, b) parts of the work, whether direct quotations, ideas, or data, are taken from another source without acknowledgement, c) the whole work is copied from another source [especially a web based source], or d) significant portions of one's own previous work used in another course. See "Plagiarism" at <http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/policies/>.

Appropriate Classroom etiquette and use of technology: In order to respect the community within the classroom: 1) Mute all cell phones during class; 2) Utilize laptops for the sole purpose of taking class notes. Please do not surf the web, email, or other programs during class time. Such use of the computer during class is disrespectful of the class and professor, and may result in lowering your participation grade.

Inclusive Language:

Hartford Seminary is committed to a policy of inclusion in its academic life and mission. All members of the community are expected to communicate in language that reflects the equality of genders, openness to diverse cultural and theological perspectives, and sensitivity to one another's images of God.

Extensions: Extensions for papers will be given for illnesses or family emergencies only in consultation with the instructor.

Official Handbooks: For all other questions you might have regarding policies or procedures, please check the student handbook <http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/student-handbook/> and seminary policies at Academic policies are listed at <http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/policies/>

COURSE OUTLINE:

Should contain a class by class schedule of reading assignments, topics for discussion

Week 1

Topic for discussion: The advent of Islam and Shi'ism during the lifetime of the Prophet.

Readings:

1. al-Mufid, Shaykh. *Kitab Al-Irshad*.
2. Haider, Najam. *Shi'i Islam: An Introduction*.
3. Momen, Moojan. *An Introduction to Shi'i Islam: The History and Doctrines of Twelver Shi'ism*.

Week 2

Topic for discussion: The succession crisis

Readings:

1. Madelung, Wilferd. *The Succession to Muḥammad: A Study of the Early Caliphate*.
2. Halm, Heinz. *Shi'a Islam: From Religion to Revolution*.

Week 3

Topic for discussion: The origins of Shi'i identity

Readings:

1. Haider, Najam. *The Origins of the Shī'a: Identity, Ritual, and Sacred Space in Eighth-Century Kūfa*.
2. Dakake, Maria. *The Charismatic Community: Shi'ite Identity in Early Islam*.

Week 4

Topic for discussion: Shi'i doctrine of Imamāt and the occultation

Readings:

1. Hussain, Jassim M. *The Occultation of the Twelfth Imam: A Historical Background*.
2. Modarressi, Hossein. *Crisis and Consolidation in the Formative Period of Shi'ite Islam*.
3. Amir-Moezzi, Mohammad Ali. *The Divine Guide in Early Shi'ism: The Sources of Esotericism in Islam*.

Week 5

Topic for discussion: The Twelve Imams

Readings:

1. Pierce, Matthew. *Twelve Infallible Men: The Imams and the Making of Shi'ism*.
2. al-Mufid, Shaykh. *Kitab Al-Irshad*.

Week 6

Topic for discussion: Shi'i theology

Reading:

1. Abdulsater, Hussein Ali. *Shi'i Doctrine, Mu'tazili Theology Al-Sharif Al-Murtada and Imami Discourse*.
2. Tabataba'i, 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husain. *Shi'ite Islam*.

Week 7

Topic for discussion: Shi'i Approach to the Qur'an

Reading:

1. Modarressi, Hossein. 'Early Debates on the Integrity of the Qur'an: A Brief Survey'.
2. Amir-Moezzi, Mohammad Ali. *The Silent Qur'an and the Speaking Qur'an: Scriptural Sources of Islam Between History and Fervor*
3. Mahmoud, Ayoub. 'The Speaking Qur'an and the Silent Qur'an: A Study of the Principles and Development of Imāmī Shī'ī Tafsīr'.
4. al-Khū'ī, Sayyid Abū al-Qāsim al-Mūsāwī. *The Prolegomena to the Qur'an*.

Week 8

Topic for discussion: Shi'i Jurisprudence

Reading:

1. Steward, Devin J. *Islamic Legal Orthodoxy: Twelver Shiite Responses to the Sunni Legal System*.
2. Modarressi, Hossein. *An Introduction to Shī'ī Law: A Bibliographical Study*.
3. Gleave, Robert. *Inevitable doubt: Two Theories of Shi'i Jurisprudence*

Week 9

Topic for discussion: Shi'i Sects

Reading List:

1. al-Nawbakhti, Ibn Musa, al-Hasan. Trans. Abbas Kadhīm. *Shi'a Sects: Kitab Firaq Al-Shi'a*.
2. Haider, Najam. *The Origins of the Shī'a: Identity, Ritual, and Sacred Space in Eighth-Century Kūfa*.
3. Daftary, Farhad. *A History of Shi'i Islam*.

Week 10

Topic for discussion: Authority in Shi'ism

Reading List:

1. Arjomand, Said Amir. *The Shadow of God and the Hidden Imam*.
2. Keddie, Nikki R., ed. *Religion and Politics in Iran: Shi'ism from Quietism to Revolution*.
3. Sachedina, Abdulaziz A. *The Just Ruler in Shī'ite Islam: The Comprehensive Authority of the Jurist in Imamite Jurisprudence*.
4. Algar, Hamid. *Religion and State in Iran 1785-1906: The Role of the Ulama in the Qajar Period*.

Week 11

Topic for discussion: Shi'ism in the modern world

Reading List:

1. Walbridge, Linda Strickland. *The Thread of Mu'awiya: The Making of a Marja' Taqlid.*
2. Heern, M. Zackery. The Emergence of Modern Shi'ism.
3. Corboz, Elvire. *Guardians of Shi'ism: Sacred Authority and Transnational Family Networks.*

Week 12

Topic for discussion: Shi'i communities in Europe and North America

Reading List:

1. Walbridge, Linda S. *Without Forgetting the Imam: Lebanese Shi'ism in an American Community.*
2. Walbridge, Linda Strickland. *The Thread of Mu'awiya: The Making of a Marja' Taqlid.*
3. Takim, Liyakat. *Shi'ism in America.*