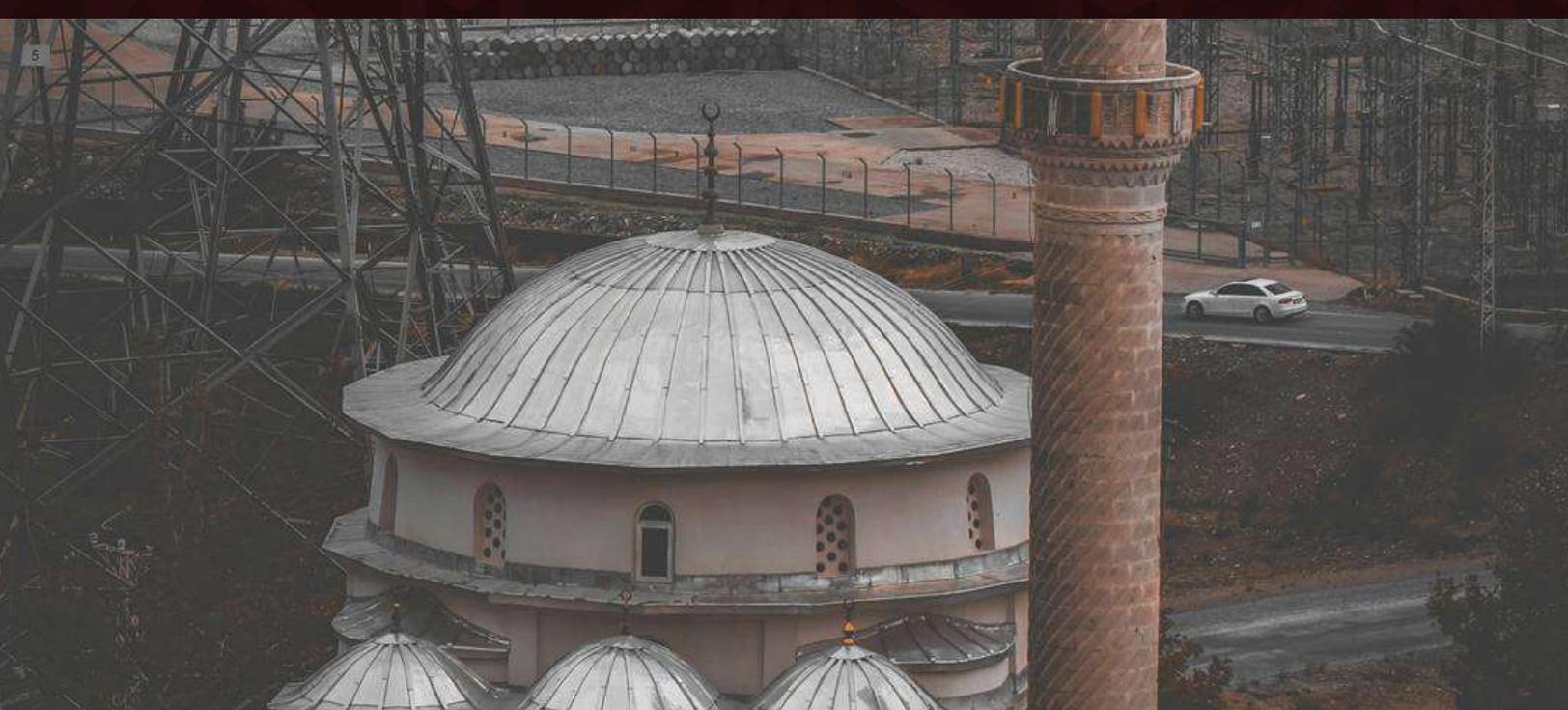




# Mapping Modernity, Mapping Tradition

## A Graduate Syllabus



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The American Society  
of Islamic Philosophy  
and Theology



Verification and  
Renewal Curriculum

## Course Description

Modernity – as a philosophical turn rather than a description of contemporary trends – often presents itself like a thicket of ideologies, impenetrable due to each thorn getting caught with so many others. For this reason, many engagements with modernity tend to remain piecemeal, addressing its immediate threats without recognizing the roots of its tendencies.

This course is a seminar treating the three core methodologies of modernity: skepticism, subjectivism, and exaggerated autonomy. It traces the expression of these three methodologies across physics, psychology, logic, ontology, ethics, religion, etc. After guiding students through this map of modernity, a map of the methodologies employed in the Islamic tradition to study these subject areas is presented. We contend that these points of departure from the wisdom of the Islamic tradition constitute the seeds for the development of the modern self.

## Learning Outcomes

By the conclusion of the course, students should:

- Possess the ability to trace new developments in modernity to the core methodologies that they spring from (i.e., produce a map of modernity)
- Demonstrate a working understanding of the native theological and philosophical methodologies of the Islamic tradition (i.e., produce a map of tradition)
- Recognize the contradictions that emerge from a grafting of the methodologies of modernity onto the Islamic tradition
- Articulate the effect of employing a holistic methodology, such as in the Islamic tradition, in a given subject area as opposed to the limited methodology of modernity

## Weekly Schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Readings</i>
1   <b>Introduction to Modernity and Tradition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Crisis<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Joseph Lombard. “Islam and the Challenge of Epistemic Sovereignty.” (pg. 1-14)</li><li>○ “Introduction” (pg. 13-38) in Ahmed Paul Keeler. <i>Rethinking Islam &amp; the West</i>.</li></ul></li><li>• Tradition<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ “Introduction” (pg. 1-39) in Syed Muhammad Naquib Attas. <i>Prolegomena to the Metaphysics of Islam</i>.</li><li>○ Omar Qureshi. “Disciplinary and Islamic Education.” (pg. 94-111)</li></ul></li></ul>

- “Introduction”, “Reality and Sophistry”, “Knowledge”, “The Epistemology of Assent” (pg. 1-60) in Marwan Tayyan, et. all. *An Applied Epistemology, General and Religious*.
- Modernity
  - Leo Strauss. “The Three Waves of Modernity.” (pg. 81-98)
  - “The Nature of the Social Bond: The Modern Alternative”, “The Nature of the Social Bond: The Postmodern Perspective”, “The Pragmatics of Narrative Knowledge”, “The Pragmatics of Scientific Knowledge”, “The Narrative Function and the Legitimation of Knowledge”, “Delegitimation” (pg. 11-40) in Jean-Francois Lyotard. *The Post-Modern Condition*.

*Recommended*

- Robert Pippin. *Modernism as a Philosophical Problem*.

## 2 | A (Potted) History of Premodernity

- “Civilisation”, “Knowledge” (pg. 57-92) in Ahmed Paul Keeler. *Rethinking Islam & the West*.
- The Ancient World
  - “Archetypal Forms”, “The Evolution of the Greek Mind from Homer to Plato”, “The Philosopher’s Quest and the Universal Mind”, “Aristotle and the Greek Balance”, “The Dual Legacy” (pg. 6-12, 16-47, 55-72) in Richard Tarnas, Richard. *The Passion of the Western Mind*.
  - “The Golden Age: Philosophy Expands its Horizons” (pg. 42-93) in John Deely. *Four Ages of Understanding*.
  - “Neoplatonism”, “The Tree of Porphyry” (pg. 112-154) in John Deely. *Four Ages of Understanding*.
- The Medieval World
  - “The Geography of the Latin Age”, “A Proper Outline” (pg. 161-181, 207-209) in John Deely. *Four Ages of Understanding*.
  - “The Emergence of Christianity”, “Classical Elements and the Platonic Inheritance”, “The Conversion of the Pagan Mind”, “Contraries within the Christian Vision”, “Dualistic Christianity” (pg. 89-93, 98-124, 130-137) in Richard Tarnas. *The Passion of the Western Mind*.
  - “Further Contraries and the Augustinian Legacy”, “Rome and Catholicism” (pg. 138-154, 158-161) in Richard Tarnas. *The Passion of the Western Mind*.
  - “The Scholastic Awakening”, “Critical Scholasticism and Ockham’s Razor” (pg. 175-190, 200-208) in Richard Tarnas. *The Passion of the Western Mind*.
  - “Theology as a Systematic Exercise of Reason”, “The Way of Things, the Philosophy of Being, and Single-Issue Thomism” (pg. 297-323, 357-358) in John Deely. *Four Ages of Understanding*.

### 3 | A (Potted) History Since Modernity

- The Modern Turn
  - “The Renaissance”, “The Reformation”, “The Scientific Revolution”, “The Philosophical Revolution”, “The Triumph of Secularism”, (pg. 224-281, 298-323) in Richard Tarnas. *The Passion of the Western Mind*.
  - “The Quarrels between Faith and Reason” (pg. 491-502) in John Deely, John. *Four Ages of Understanding*.
  - “The Self-Critique of the Modern Mind” (pg. 333-354) in Richard Tarnas, Richard. *The Passion of the Western Mind*.
  - “The Founding Fathers: Rene Descartes and John Locke”, “Synthesis and Successors: The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde” (pg. 511-532, 535-538, 540-570) in John Deely. *Four Ages of Understanding*.
- The Postmodern Cul-De-Sac
  - “The Changing Image of the Human from Copernicus to Freud”, “The Crisis of Modern Science”, “Romanticism and Its Fate”, “The Postmodern Mind” (pg. 326-332, 355-410) in Richard Tarnas. *The Passion of the Western Mind*.
  - “Foundations of the Revolution” (pg. 105-200) in Carl Trueman. *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self*.

### 4 | The Modern Self

- Immanuel Kant. *An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?* Translated by H. B. Nisbet.
- “Introduction”, “Architecture of the Revolution”, “Sigmund Freud, Civilization, and Sex”, “Triumphs of the Revolution” (pg. 19-104, 201-224, 271-382) in Carl Trueman. *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self*.
- “Reflections on Psychological Man in America” (pg. 3-9) in Phillip Rieff. *The Feeling Intellect: Selected Writings*.
- “The Age of Authenticity” (pg. 473-504) in Charles Taylor. *A Secular Age*.

#### *Recommended*

- Alan Bloom. *The Closing of the American Mind*.

### 5 | Philosophy of Science

- “Introduction” (pg. 1-27) in R.G. Collingwood, R.G. *The Idea of Nature*.
- Teleology
  - “Teleology, Darwinism, and the Place of Man: Beyond Chance and Necessity?”, “Thinking About the Body” (pg. 249-295) in Leon Kass. *Towards a More Natural Science*.
  - Abu Hamid al-Ghazali. *Concerning Divine Wisdom in the Creation of Man*. (pg. 48-112)

- Setia, Adi. “Taskhīr, Fine-Tuning, Intelligent Design and the Scientific Appreciation of Nature.” (pg. 7-32)
- Şentürk, Recep. “Semiotics of Nature.” (pg. 155-170)

## 6 | Physics and Cosmology

- Mathematization of Physics
  - “Motion, Space, and Time” (pg. 91-98) in E.A. Burtt. *The Metaphysical Foundations of Modern Science*.
- “Modern Physics”, “Modern Cosmology” (pg. 148-178) in R.G. Collingwood, R.G. *The Idea of Nature*.
- al-Mahdaly, Sharifah Hajar. “The Influence of the Conceptual Development of Nature in Western Civilisation on the Perennial Philosophy.” (pg. 15-45)
- “Part Three: The World of Similitudes” (pg. 35-151) in Mostafa Al-Badawi. *Higher Realities: Manifestations of the Unseen*.

## 7 | Psychology and Philosophy of Mind

- The Mind and Body Problem
  - “Descartes” (pg. 105-124) in E.A. Burtt. *The Metaphysical Foundations of Modern Science*.
- “Discourse on the Virtue of Man” (pg. 464-479) in Yasien Mohamed, Yasien. *The Path to Virtue*.
- “The Nature of Man and the Psychology of the Human Soul” (pg. 143-176) in Syed Muhammad Naquib Attas. *Prolegomena to the Metaphysics of Islam*.
- “The Faculties of the Soul and Purifying it” (pg. 480-491) in Yasien Mohamed. *The Path to Virtue*.

## 8 | Logic

- Realism and Foundationalism
  - “The Principle of Non-Contradiction” (pg. 43-53) in Karim Lahham. *The Anatomy of Knowledge and the Ontological Necessity of First Principles*.
  - “A Logic that Can’t Say What Anything Is”, “Alternative Logics: A What-Logic and a Relating-Logic” (pg. 26-62) in Henry Veatch. *Two Logics*.
- Language Games and Metanarratives
  - “Community as Context: Wittgenstein on ‘Meaning as Use’” (pg. 39-72) in James K.A. Smith. *Who’s Afraid of Relativism?*
  - “Where Have All the Metanarratives Gone?” (pg. 59-74) in James K.A. Smith, James K.A. *Who’s Afraid of Postmodernism?*
- What is Reason?
  - “The Diversity of Reason” (pg. 15-29) in John Walbridge, John. *God and Logic in Islam*.

- Ibrahim Kalin. *Reason and Rationality in the Qur'an*.

## 9 | Ontology

- Primary and Secondary Qualities
  - “The Subjectivity of Secondary Qualities” (pg. 83-90) in E.A. Burtt. *The Metaphysical Foundations of Modern Science*.
- The Vertical and Horizontal Dimensions of Reality
  - “The Universe”, “Man”, “The Times” (pg. 1-70) in Mostafa al-Badawi, Mostafa. *Man and the Universe*.

## 10 | Ethics

- Subjective Ethics from the Loss of Teleology
  - “The Nature of Moral Disagreement Today and the Claims of Emotivism”, “Emotivism: Social Content and Social Context”, “The Predecessor Culture and the Enlightenment Project of Justifying Morality”, “Why the Enlightenment Project of Justifying Morality Had to Fail”, “Some Consequences of the Failure of the Enlightenment Project” (pg. 6-78) in Alasdair MacIntyre, *After Virtue*.
- Happiness and Felicity
  - “The Meaning and Experience of Happiness in Islam” (pg. 91-110) in Syed Muhammad Naquib Attas. *Prolegomena to the Metaphysics of Islam*.
- What is a Virtue? How is it Determined?
  - “Aristotle’s Account of the Virtue”, “Medieval Aspects and Occasions”, “The Nature of the Virtues”, “The Virtues, the Unity of a Human Life, and the Concept of a Tradition”, “From the Virtues to Virtue to After Virtue” (pg. 146-243) in Alasdair MacIntyre, *After Virtue*.
  - “On Justice” (pg.1-23) in Syed Muhammad Naquib Attas. *On Justice and the Nature of Man*.

### *Recommended*

- Mortimer Adler. *The Time of Our Lives*.

## 11 | Social Sciences

- The Fall of Religious Authorities
  - “The Muslim Dilemma” (pg. 97-132) in Syed Muhammed Naquib al-Attas. *Islam and Secularism*.
- “Modern Social Imaginaries” (pg. 159-211) in Charles Taylor. *A Secular Age*.
- “Work”, “Community” (pg. 130-200) in Zygmunt Bauman. *Liquid Modernity*.
- Karim Lahham. “Metaphysics and Sociology.” Tabah Foundation, 2014.
- Karim Lahham. “The Vocational Society”. Tabah Foundation, 2013.

- Karim Lahham. “*Farḍ al-Kifāyah* as the Juridical Foundation of the Islamic Social Apparatus.” (pg. 74-99) in Salah Chafik et. all. *The Islamic Social Order and its Frameworks: Studies and Critical Reflections*.

*Recommended*

- Richard Sennett. *The Fall of Public Man*.

## 12 | Economics

- “The Puritan Movement” (pg. 164-236) in R.H. Tawney. *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism*.
- “Individuality” (pg. 53-90) in Zygmunt Bauman. *Liquid Modernity*.
- Adi Setia. “The Meaning of ‘Economy.’” (pg. 117-124)
- Adi Setia. “Reviving an Economics for the Common Good.” (pg. 177-184)
- Adi Setia. “Waqf and the Civic Economy.” (pg. 174-182)
- Adi Setia. “Trade, Commerce, Money and Market in the Islamic Experience.” (pg. 150-166)
- “The Problem”, “Asceticism and the Spirit of Capitalism” (pg. 1-50, 102-125) in Max Weber. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*.

*Recommended*

- Karl Polanyi. *The Great Transformation*.
- Wendell Berry. *The Unsettling of America: Culture and Agriculture*.

## 13 | Technology

- “From Tools to Technocracy”, “From Technocracy to Technopoly”, “The Broken Defenses”, “The Ideology of Machines: Medical Technology”, “The Ideology of Machines: Computer Technology” (pg. 21-55, 71-122) in Neil Postman. *Technopoly*.
- “Techniques” (pg. 1-62) in Jacques Ellul. *The Technological Society*.
- Martin Heidegger. “The Question Concerning Technology” (pg. 3-35) in Martin Heidegger. *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays*.
- E. F. Schumacher. *Good Work*.

*Recommended*

- Martin Heidegger. “The Turning” (pg. 36-51) in Martin Heidegger, Martin. *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays*.
- “Sanctuary, Village, and Stronghold”, “The Crystallization of the City”, “The Nature of the Ancient City”, “Commercial Expansion and Urban Dissolution”, “Paleotechnic Paradise: Coketown”, “Suburbia – and Beyond”, “The Myth of Megalopolis” (pg. 3-54, 94-118, 410-567) in Lewis Mumford, Lewis. *The City in History*.

## 14 | Religion I

- The Process of Secularization
  - “Secular, Secularization, Secularism” (pg. 15-50) in Syed Muhammed Naquib al-Attas. *Islam and Secularism*.
  - “Introduction”, “The Bulwarks of Belief” (pg. 1-89) in Charles Taylor. *A Secular Age*.
  - “Providential Deism” (pg. 242-269) in Charles Taylor. *A Secular Age*.
  - “The Immanent Frame” (pg. 539-593) in Charles Taylor. *A Secular Age*.

### *Recommended*

- “The Malaise of Immanence: The ‘Feel’ of a Secular Age”, “Contesting the Secularization Thesis”, “How (Not) to Live in a Secular Age” (pg. 60-130) in James K.A. Smith. *How (Not) to Live in a Secular Age*.

## 15 | Religion II

- The Primacy of Religion
  - “Islam: The Concept of Religion and the Foundation of Ethics and Morality” (pg. 51-95) in Syed Muhammed Naquib al-Attas. *Islam and Secularism*.
  - “Introduction”, “Excluding God”, “Relativizing Doctrines”, “Subjectivizing Morality”, “Manufacturing the Goods Life” (pg. 1-127, 180-296) in Brad Gregory. *The Unintended Reformation*.

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