

## Introduction to Islam and Islamic philosophy

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**Start date** 14 October 2016                      **End date** 16 October 2016

**Venue**            Madingley Hall  
                      Madingley  
                      Cambridge

**Tutor**            **Dr Karim Esmail**                      **Course code** 1617NRX027

**Director of Programmes**                      Emma Jennings

**For further information on this course, please contact**                      Public Programme Co-ordinator, Clare Kerr  
[clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk) or 01223 746237

**To book**        See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

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### Tutor biography

Karim Esmail    BA   MPhil   MPhil   PhD

Educated at Oxford, Cambridge, London, and Harvard.

Awarded a British Academy Studentship.

Awarded the Gregg Bury Prize, Cambridge.

Formerly, Research Fellow, Oxford and Visiting Fellow, Harvard and Burney Student, Cambridge and Acting Director of Studies (Philosophy and Religious Studies), ICE, Cambridge.

He has published internationally.

Currently, he lectures at Oxford and Cambridge.

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## Course programme

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### Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	Pre- Islamic Arabia; Muhammad; The Qur'an; Sunna & Hadith.
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Expansion; the Umayyads; Sunnis and Shias.
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	The Five Pillars
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Sufism
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	<u>Philosophy</u> - Greek into Arabic; Al Kindi
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Al Farabi
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Ibn Sina
12:45	Lunch

**The course will disperse after lunch**

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## Course syllabus

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### Aims:

- To provide an understanding of the origins of Islam and its early historical development, its key text and beliefs and religious duties, and its main mystical element.
- To provide an understanding of some of the thought of some its great early and medieval philosophers.

### Content:

Islam is one of the great religions of the world.

This series of seminars is an introduction to its foundations and to some of the key elements in the thought of some of its great philosophers

The first seminar considers pre-Islamic Arabia and the prophet of Islam, Muhammad, and the revelation which he received and which is Islam's sacred text, the Qur'an, and the example he provides.

The second seminar considers among other things the early expansion of Islam after his death and the Umayyad dynasty and the division between Sunnis and Shias.

The third seminar considers 5 key religious duties, the so-called "Five Pillars" of Islam.

The fourth seminar considers the main mystical element in Islam, Sufism.

The fifth seminar considers the transmission of Greek thought to the Muslim world and some of the key elements in the thought of the philosopher al Kindi.

The sixth seminar considers some of the key elements in the thought of the philosopher al –Farabi.

The final seminar considers some of the key elements in the thought of the philosopher ibn Sina.

### Presentation of the course:

Lectures and discussion.

### Outcomes:

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should have:

- An understanding of the origins of Islam and its early historical development, its key text and beliefs and religious duties, and its main mystical element.
- An understanding of some of the key elements in the thought of some its great early and medieval philosophers.

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## Reading and resources list

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Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

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Author	Title	Publisher
<u>Introductions to Islam</u>		
Waines, D.,	<i>An Introduction to Islam</i>	Cambridge
Rahman, F.,	<i>Islam</i>	Chicago

### Works on Islamic Philosophy

Davidson, H. A.,	<i>Proofs for Eternity, Creation and the existence of God in Medieval Islamic and Jewish Philosophy</i>	Oxford
Leaman, O., I	<i>An Introduction to Classical Islamic Philosophy</i>	Cambridge

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

*Information correct as of:* 29 September 2016