

# HUMN 3061 MYSTICAL ISLAM: THE EMERGENCE OF SUFISM IN WORLD HISTORY

**Credit Points** 10

**Legacy Code** 102495

**Coordinator** Mory So (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Mory So/>)

**Description** Global Islamism has projected a particularly severe, even militant face of Islam across much of the world. Much less well known is the fact that for much of its history Islam has had a quite different face: it has been mystical and contemplative more than proselytising. The Sufist tradition was formed within the first three centuries of Islamic history; its influence spread far and wide across the Muslim World where "Sufis" played a pivotal role in engaging non-Muslim peoples both within and on the fringes of their world. The subject explores religious pluralism and an alternative narrative in Islam.

**School** Humanities & Comm Arts

**Discipline** Sociology

**Student Contribution Band** HECS Band 4 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees ([https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/fees/](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/)) page.

**Level** Undergraduate Level 3 subject

## Restrictions

Successful completion of 60 credit points of study in currently enrolled program.

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of Sufi historical past leading up to the present;
2. Analyse key figures and events that define the Sufi mystical tradition;
3. Comprehend the history of scholarship and approaches to the study of Sufism;
4. Apply multidisciplinary methodological approaches to the study of Sufism and mystic traditions;
5. Identify significant influences in the process of development and impact of Sufi ideas to the present age; and
6. Exhibit learned research techniques and awareness of relevant source materials.

## Subject Content

Module 1 Overview and Approach

Module 2 Before Sufism

Module 3 The Sufi The Dervish

Module 4 Silence and Sobriety

Module 5 Intoxicated Speech

Module 6 Consolidation and Systematisation

Module 7 Principal Teachings

Module 8 Mysticism and the Religion of Love

Module 9 Mystical Poetry

Module 10 Theophany

Module 11 The Female Mystic  
Module 12 The Divine Feminine  
Module 13 Resistance and Change

## Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Essay	1,500 words	45	N	Individual	Y
Essay	2,500 words	55	N	Individual	Y

## Prescribed Texts

- Knysh, Alexander. Islamic Mysticism. 1st ed. Brill: Leiden, 2010.

## Teaching Periods

### Spring (2025)

#### Parramatta - Victoria Rd

##### On-site

**Subject Contact** Mory So (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Mory So/>)

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject\\_code=HUMN3061\\_25-SPR\\_PS\\_1#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=HUMN3061_25-SPR_PS_1#subjects))