Course Description: Does Islam have its own humanistic tradition? Certainly, it would not be a secular one. What is humanism? And can be conceive of it in theological categories? In this course, we do close reading of some of Islam’s literary classics from a variety of genres and time periods and consider the place (and ethical contributions) of humanistic thinking in the religious heritage of Islam.

Course Readings: at bookstore (below) or on blackboard (course docs).
1) Attar, Conference of the Birds; 2) Naguib Mahfouz, Journey of Ibn Fattouma; 3) Roy Mottahedeh, Mantle of the Prophet

Course Goals: 1) to read more insightfully, think more pensively, and write more compellingly; and 2) to consider religion with a focus on the human being as object of theological reflection & human processes as a source of divine guidance along with scripture.

Course Requirements: Close reading of assignments, active participation in class, and two paper assignments (midterm and final).

Course Etiquette: Tardiness is unacceptable. Late entries are disruptive. No laptops. Look at the humans around you.

Course Outline (subject to change)

September
8 Introduction
15 Ibn Tufayl: A Philosophical Tale
22 Ibn Khaldun: Introduction to History
29 Abu Sa’id ibn Abi’l-Khayr

October
6 Tabari: On the Killing of Uthman
13 Khayr al-Din al-Tunisi: The Surest Path
20 Ghazali: Deliverance from Error
27 Attar: The Conference of the Birds

November
3 Al-Muqaddasi on the Regions of Islam & The Travels of Ibn Battuta
10 Naguib Mahfouz: The Journey of Ibn Fattouma
17 Ibn Hazm: On Love
24 M. Kamel Hussein, City of Wrong

December
1 Roy Mottahedeh: The Mantle of the Prophet
HONOR CODE
MALS and DLS students are responsible for upholding the Georgetown University Honor System and adhering to the academic standards included in the Honor Code Pledge stated below:
In pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown University Honor system: To be honest in any academic endeavor: and to conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT:
If you believe you have a disability, then you should contact the Academic Resource Center (arc@georgetown.edu) for further information. The Center is located in the Leavey Center, Suite 335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students with disabilities and for determining reasonable accommodations in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies.