

Sufism Online Assignment

Due: Tuesday December 10th

Create a 5-7minute podcast on a select Sufi order's online presence. Your podcast should be anchored on the following question as proposed by Robert Rozehnal in his *CyberSufis*:

- 1) In what ways do digital media either expand or dissemble established patterns of Sufi identity, institutionalization, authority, and spiritual pedagogy? To be more specific: how does cyberspace duplicate, complement, or alter the intimate relationship between a Sufi master and his/her disciples and the embodied ritual practices that are at the very heart of traditional Sufi piety?¹

Within the purview of this question feel free to explore multiple dimensions of your chosen Sufi order's online presence and presentation, and interaction with its multiple audiences. Feel free to choose two websites and conduct a comparative analysis also if you prefer.

Some possible North American Sufi orders and websites you may choose from include:

- 1) Bawa Muhaiyaddeen Fellowship www.bmg.org
- 2) Jerrahi order of America www.jerrahi.org
- 3) Nur Ashki Jerrahi Community www.nurashkijerrahi.org
- 4) Murid Islamic Community in America www.toubamica.org
- 5) Naqshbandi Haqqani Sufi Order of America www.naqshbandi.org
- 6) Nimatullahi Sufi Order www.nimatullahi.org
- 7) The Threshold Society <https://sufism.org>

Think of this podcast as part of a series on "Sufism and modernity" where you're trying to offer conceptual insights and analysis on a specific case study through the podcast medium.

Further Instructions:

Do not approach this as a traditional writing assignment. You should write out your script but be sure to think through how the script and other elements of the podcast (sound clips) will interact and unfold. I would recommend listening to a couple of podcast examples. Here below are a few suggestions of both popular and academic podcasts that relate to the study of religion.

<https://onbeing.org/programs/fatemeh-keshavarz-the-ecstatic-faith-of-rumi/>

<https://historyofphilosophy.net/rumi-sufism>

<https://www.npr.org/2019/10/12/769046586/religious-walking-tour-maps-out-the-history-of-muslims-in-new-york-city>

¹ Robert Rozehnal, *Cyber Sufis: Virtual Expressions of the American Muslim Experience*, (London: Oneworld, 2019), p. 19.