



Lahore University of Management Sciences

PHIL432 – Muhammad Iqbal and Charles Peirce

Spring 2016-17

Instructor	Basit Bilal Koshul
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

In the simplest terms, this course will be a close and critical reading of Muhammad Iqbal's *The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam* in conjunction with selected essays by Charles Peirce. John Dewey's *Reconstruction in Philosophy* will be used to set the framework of the encounter between Iqbal and Peirce. The two thinkers will be involved in a constant conversation during the course—supplementing, clarifying and, on occasion, repairing each other's thought. The synthesis of the ideas of Iqbal and Peirce will be done with a view towards the task of "reconstructing philosophy" as described by Dewey. More specifically, taking our cue from Dewey, we will read Iqbal and Peirce with the following questions in mind:

- What are the questions Peirce and Iqbal are addressing and attempting to resolve?
- What resources and approach(es) are they employing to examine these questions?
- What are the resolutions/answers that they propose?

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Help the student recognize that philosophy is more than some fuzzy, vague "love of wisdom"—it is a science that helps the inquirer to "trace the hidden assumptions" underpinning all human knowledge claims "to their hiding places".
2. Help the student recognize the relationship between "abstract," "theoretical," "conceptual" discussions in philosophy and "physical," "material," "real" wellbeing (or lack thereof) in the world, both at the individual and collective levels.
3. Move beyond seeing Iqbal as only "poet of East" or "poet-philosopher of Pakistan" and appreciate his ideas from a more global perspective.
4. Introduce the student to Charles Peirce's philosophy (pragmatism) especially as it relates to the philosophy of science and the philosophy of religion.
5. Enhance the student's critical and analytical skills so that their self-awareness is sharpened, thereby enhancing their ability to better understand the world around them.
6. Help the student appreciate the historical context and contemporary relevance of the philosophical questions and issues to which Iqbal and Peirce are responding.

TEXTS

The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam, Allama Muhammad Iqbal
The Collected Papers of Charles S. Peirce (Selections)
Reconstruction in Philosophy, John Dewey



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COURSE OUTLINE

Session 1

- Introduction

Session 2 and 3

- Dewey's *Reconstruction in Philosophy*, Chapter 2-4
- Preface to *The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam*

Session 4 and 5

- *The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam*, Chapter 1

Session 6 and 7

- Peirce: 'The Fixation of Belief'

Session 8 and 9

- *The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam*, Chapter 2

Session 10 and 11

- *The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam*, Chapter 3

Session 12 and 13

- Peirce: 'Notes on Scientific Philosophy'

Session 14

- Revisiting Dewey

Session 15 and 16

- *Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam*, Chapter 4

Session 17

- Peirce: 'Evolutionary Love'

Session 18 and 19

- *The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam*, Chapter 5

Session 20 and 21

- Peirce: 'How to Make Our Ideas Clear'

Session 22 and 23

- *The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam*, Chapter 6

Session 24 and 25

- *The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam*, Chapter 7

Session 26 and 27



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– Peirce: ‘The Doctrine of Chances’

Session 28

Revisiting *Reconstruction in Philosophy* by Dewey

COURSE EVALUATION

Attendance:	10%
C.P.	10%
Assignments	30%
Final Paper	50%

Note: Given the percentage of the final grade determined by the assignments combined with class participation and attendance, students will have to attend class, contribute to the discussion in class and do their assignments on time in order to do well. Late assignments will be accepted if they are turned in before the start of the next class session but with a 20% grade reduction. No late assignments will be accepted if they are two class sessions late.