

ALCHEMY OF HAPPINESS

In-class essay

Be prepared to write a five-paragraph essay in class that answers this question:

What were a person's most important religious pursuits according to al-Ghazali, and why were they important?

To prepare for this in-class essay, use your textbook (Chapter 14) and lecture material for additional evidence, but please do not consult any other sources (especially the Internet) outside this class for this particular assignment. Your essay should contain a **thesis** (a statement that can be reasonably argued) in the introduction. The next three paragraphs must contain **specific evidence** from al-Ghazali that directly supports and defends your thesis. Relate all evidence back to your thesis and do not retell *Alchemy of Happiness*. End with a brief conclusion that offers a meaningful observation about the book. Avoid personal pronouns (e.g., "I").

Essays will be graded according to the following general standards:

90–100% **An A is reserved for outstanding work.** This is a clearly written, well-organized essay. The introduction includes insightful historical context, and the thesis is original and interesting. The body of the essay supports the thesis with well-integrated and well-chosen evidence. The essay demonstrates that the student has a solid command of the course material.

80–89% This essay adequately addresses the assigned question or topic. The thesis may, be weak or uninspired. Evidence is adequate yet lacks a complex analysis. There are some writing/organization problems.

70–79% This essay has a weak thesis and disregards the most important and obvious examples. It may also suffer from a combination of problems, including insufficient depth of analysis, poor grammar and organization, and a conversational or casual tone that is inappropriate in formal writing.

64–69% This essay lacks a thesis, and as a result, the evidence presented does not support an argument. The essay may also demonstrate that the student has some awareness of the material but cannot incorporate it into an argument that addresses the assigned question or topic. The essay might also demonstrate that the student lacks sufficient writing skills required in an introductory college course.

Below 64% This essay contains no thesis, little understanding and use of the course material, and insufficient or inappropriate evidence.

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