

SUMMER SCHOOL

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# STUDIES IN SUFISM

1<sup>ST</sup> EDITION

**FOUNDATIONS OF ISLAMIC SPIRITUALITY**

5-12 SEPTEMBER 2017, TAMACINE (ALGERIA)

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Tijani Zawiya  
TAMACINE

PERENNIA VERBA



**UNIMORE**  
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI  
MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA



# Introduction

The first edition of the Summer School “Foundations of Islamic Spirituality”, organized by the association Perennia Verba (Parma, IT) in collaboration with the Istituto per l’Oriente Carlo Alfonso Nallino (Rome, IT) and the Officina di Studi Medievali (Palermo, IT), will be hosted by the Tijani Zawiya in Tamacine, in the heart of the Algerian desert.

The aim of the school is to bring together senior scholars and young researchers in order to analyze the basic tenets of *taṣawwuf* and contextualize new issues coming from later developments in Islamic spirituality. The choice of a traditional Islamic milieu as a location for the school has been made with this very perspective in mind.

The topic chosen for the present year will be Early Sufism between Baghdad and Khorasan and Later Developments in *taṣawwuf*. The activities of the school will explore the foundations of core ideas and fundamental principles in Islamic Spirituality, as originally conceived within the schools of Baghdad and Khorasan, and their relevance for the understanding of subsequent conceptual developments throughout the history of Sufism.

There will be three kinds of activities:

- Frontal lectures on the key topics of this year's edition;
- Workshops based on readings and discussions of primary sources on different aspects of early Sufism. A selection of these texts will be forwarded to the participants in due time.
- Presentations and discussions of students' research projects.

# Organization

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The Summer School's organization is a joint effort of:

- ❑ the association Perennia Verba (Parma, IT);
- ❑ the Tijani Zawiya in Tamacine (DZ);
- ❑ the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (IT);
- ❑ the Istituto per l'Oriente Carlo Alfonso Nallino (Rome, IT);
- ❑ the Officina di Studi Medievali (Palermo, IT).

## Summer School Venue and Accommodation

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All lectures, workshops, and activities will take place within the premises of the Tijani Zawiya in Tamacine from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2017. Meals in Tamacine, daily transportation from/to the nearby city of Touggourt<sup>1</sup>, guided tours of the region, and accommodation for a limited number of students<sup>2</sup> will be provided, totally free of charge, by the Zawiya administration that will also supply candidates with official invitation letters for visa purposes. The organization will also reserve a bus for the transfer from Algiers to Touggourt/Tamacine (and back) for all the participants (10 hours, tickets will be sold on site).

This will represent a unique opportunity for young researchers in Islamic Studies to take part for one week to a stimulating academic environment while plunging into a genuine Sufi atmosphere and interacting with authentic representatives of contemporary Islamic Spirituality. It will also constitute a rare occasion to discover an enchanting region off the beaten track.

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1 Where the nearest airport and most tourist facilities (hotels, restaurants, etc.) are located.

2 A certain number of single and double rooms at the Zawiya or local families will be available free of charge for early applications. Rooms are very simple and clean but might not meet European standards. In alternative students will be provided with a list of hotels in the nearby city of Touggourt offering special rates for the event.

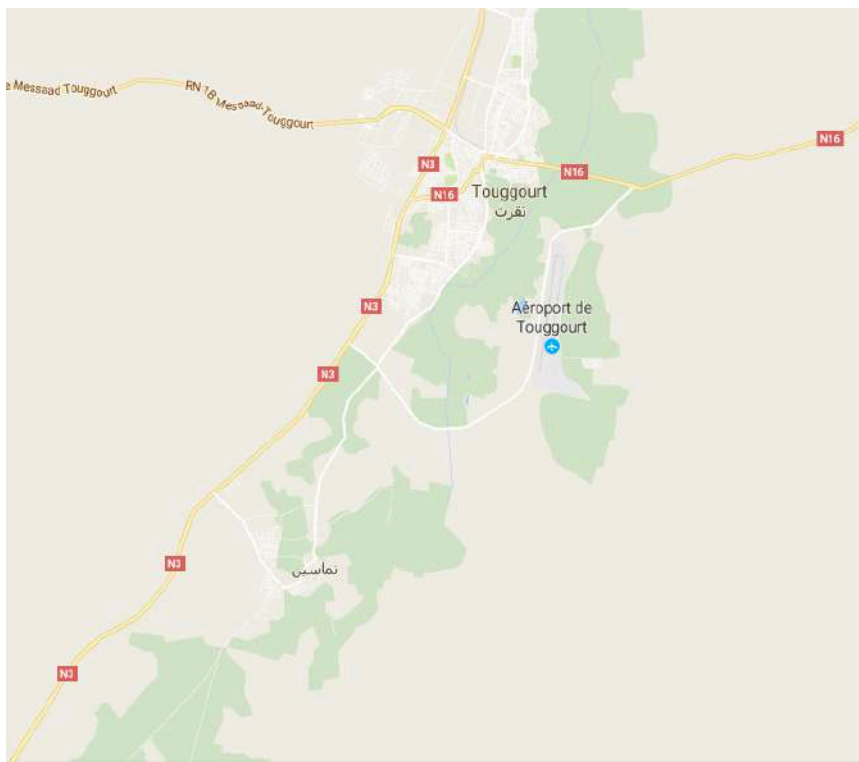
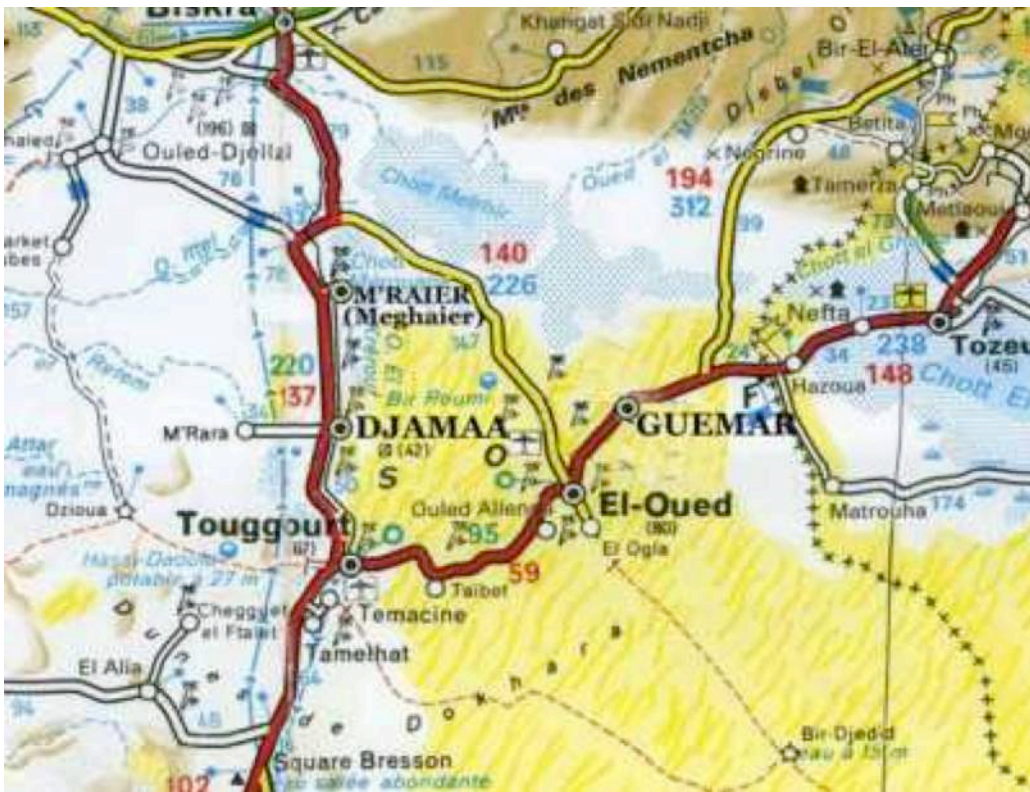


Tijani Zawiya of Tamacine

The town of Tamacine is situated in South-East Algeria, about 20 km from Touggourt. Founded around 782 A.D. by the Righa families of the Berber tribes of Zenata, it developed around a *ksar* fortified around a palm grove of several hectares and – uniquely – on a bed of palm trees reaching a height of eight metres in places. The Zawiya was founded at the end of the 19th century, under the leadership of Sidi Hadj Ali Tamacini. Today the Zawiya, held by Sidi Muhammed Laid Tidjani Tamacini, is considered to be one of the great spiritual centres of the Tijaniyya brotherhood. Thousands of pilgrims converge here every year.



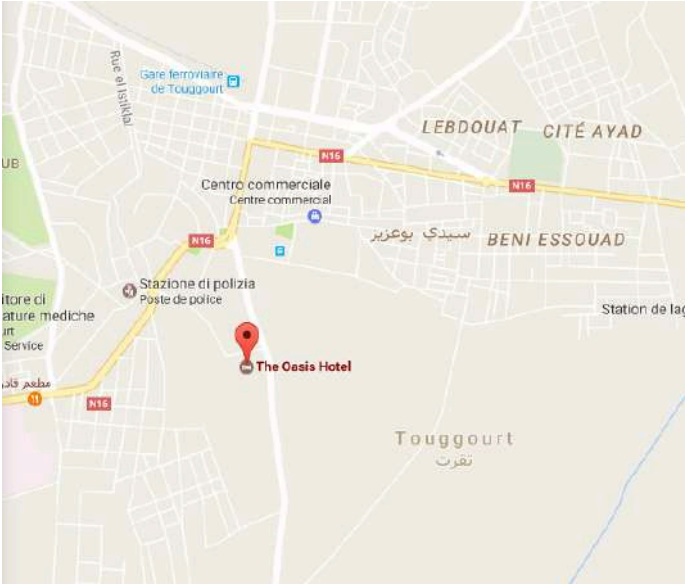
# Ariport and Zawiya



# Accommodation

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## Hotel Oasis



## Hotel Tijani



# Program<sup>3</sup>

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## Tuesday 5 September

**Arrival in Touggourt/Tamacine (late evening, by bus from Algiers – 10 hours of travel approximately)**

## Wednesday 6 September

### Morning session

- 9.00-9.30: Registration
- 9.30-10.00: **Opening and introduction of the Summer School:**  
Shaykh Sidi Muhammed Laïd Tidjani (Tijani Zawiya in Tamacine, DZ)  
Paolo Urizzi (Director of Perennia Verba, IT)  
Prof. Demetrio Giordani (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, IT)
- 10.00-11.00: Prof. Eric Geoffroy (University of Strasbourg, FR):  
**"General introduction to Sufism"**
- 11.00-11.15: Coffee and tea break
- 11.15-12.00: Dr. Michele Petrone (University of Copenhagen, DK):  
**"Historical and geographical overview of seminal Sufism"**
- 12.00-12.30: Questions and discussions
- 12.30-14.30: Lunch Break

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3 The program may undergo minor modifications (due to delays in transportation or other exigencies)

## Afternoon session

- 14.30-15.15: Prof. Demetrio Giordani (Univ. of Modena and Reggio Emilia, IT):  
**"The Schools of Baghdad and Khorasan"**
- 15.15-15.30: Questions and discussions
- 15.30-16.30: Paolo Urizzi (Director of Perennia Verba, Parma, IT):  
**"Sufi Vision of Tawhid"** with Readings from Junayd
- 16.30-16.45: Coffee and tea break
- 16.45-17.45: Prof. Eric Geoffroy (University of Strasbourg, FR):  
**"Theopathic Experience"** with Readings from al-Hallaj
- 17.45-18.00: Questions and discussions

## Thursday 7 September

### Morning session

- 9.30-10.15: Prof. Eric Geoffroy (University of Strasbourg, FR):  
**"Supreme Identity"** with Readings from Bistami
- 10.15-11.00: Dr. Federico Salvaggio (University of Genoa, IT):  
**"Qur'anic hermeneutics: Sarraj and Tustari"**
- 11.00-11.15: Coffee and tea break
- 11.15-12.00: Dr. Michele Petrone (University of Copenhagen, DK):  
**"Muhammadan Light in Tustari and Imam Ja'far"**
- 12.00-12.30: Questions and discussion
- 12.30-14.30: Lunch break



## Afternoon session

- 14.30-15.15: Paolo Urizzi (Director of Perennia Verba, Parma, IT):  
*“Tirmidhi and the two kinds of Sainthood”*
- 15.15-16.00: Prof. Demetrio Giordani (Univ. of Modena and Reggio Emilia, IT):  
*“The Malamatiyya of Khorasan”*
- 16.00-16.15: Questions and discussion
- 16.15-16.30: Coffee and tea break
- 16.30-18.00: Students' presentations Group 1

## Friday 8 September

### Morning session

- 9.00-09.45: Prof. Eric Geoffroy (University of Strasbourg, FR):  
*“The Idea of Tawhid in Ibn ‘Arabi”*
- 09.45-11.30: Paolo Urizzi (Director of Perennia Verba, Parma, IT):  
*“The Malamati spirituality in Ibn ‘Arabi”*
- 11.30-11.45: Questions and discussion
- 11.45-16.00: Lunch break

## Afternoon

- 16.00 -19.00: **Visit to the Tijani Zawiya in Tamacine** to attend Friday *dhikr*



## Saturday 9 September

### Morning session

- 9.30-10.15: Prof. Andrea Brigaglia (University of Cape Town, ZA):  
***“The emergence and establishment of Sufi ṭuruq”***
- 10.15-11.00: Paolo Urizzi (Director of Perennia Verba, Parma, IT):  
***“The rise of the Tariqa Muhammadiyya”***
- 11.00-11.15: Questions and discussion
- 11.15-11.30: Coffee and tea break
- 11:30-12.30 Students' presentation group 2
- 12.30-14.30 Lunch break

## Afternoon session

- 14.30-15.15: Prof. Demetrio Giordani (Univ. of Modena and Reggio Emilia, IT):  
***“The Tariqa Naqshbandiyya Mujaddidiyya”***
- 15.15-16.00: Dr. Michele Petrone (University of Copenhagen, DK):  
***“The Tariqa Tijaniyya”***
- 16.00-16:30: A Tijani Authority (Muqaddam)  
***“The Tijaniyya from a Tijani viewpoint”***
- 16.30-17.00: Questions and discussions
- 17.00-17.15: Coffee and tea break
- 17.15-18.00: Students' presentation group 3

## Sunday 10 September

- 9.30-18.00: ***Guided tour to the Saharan oasis town of Guemar***  
and encounter with the local Tijani community



## Monday 11 September

- 9.30-18.00: ***Visit to the University and the city of El Oued***

### **Encounter with Algerian scholars, researchers, and students**

Prof. Muhammed Benbrika (University of Alger, DZ),

and Prof. Sa'id al-Khamissi (University of Constantine, DZ)

will take part to the event.

### **Concluding session of the Summer School**

Shaykh Sidi Muhammed Laïd Tidjani (Tijani Zawiya in Tamacine, DZ)

Paolo Urizzi (Director of Perennia Verba, IT)

Prof. Eric Geoffroy (Université de Strasbourg, FR)

Prof. Demetrio Giordani (Univ. of Modena and Reggio Emilia, IT)

Awarding of certificates of attendance

Comments and feedback of participants

Discussion of proposals for future editions

## Tuesday 12 September

**Departure from Touggourt/Tamacine  
(early morning bus to Algiers – 10 hours of travel approximately)**





# Application

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The Summer School is primarily conceived for post-graduate students engaged in research projects on Sufism. Applications from other interested subjects will also be considered. Knowledge of Arabic and French are an advantage for postgraduate students engaged in advanced research projects. However, these are not prerequisites as language of instruction of the Summer School will be English.

If you wish to join the Summer School please fill in the application form below and provide us with a motivation letter in which you explain your background in Islamic Studies and your current research field (if you have one) as well as your expectations regarding the Summer School. You may include a personal CV and a list of publications if you wish to do so. Please specify if you want to apply for free accommodation at the Zawiya or local families and please note that we only have a limited number of available free rooms that will be assigned to accepted applicants according to their order of application. Please note once again that the rooms are very basic and might not meet European standards (e.g. they might have a Turkish toilet outside the room). In alternative we will provide you with a list of hotels in the nearby city of Touggourt offering special rates for the event.

The course fee is **350 EUR**. This includes all classes, workshops, and activities as well as the organized visits to the region, meals in Tamcine, and transportation from/to the nearby city of Touggourt. Please submit you application form together with your motivation letter to the e-mail address [perenniaverba@gmail.com](mailto:perenniaverba@gmail.com) and please note that the deadline for the application is the **10<sup>th</sup> of July**. Upon notification of acceptance you will be asked to pay the course fee in full by bank transfer and to provide us with a copy of a valid passport in order to prepare an invitation letter for visa purposes (NB: you need to cover visa and transport expenses: to/from Algiers and from Algiers to Touggourt/Tamacine and back). Further details about the organization will be provided to successful applicants.

**A minimum number of participants is required for the activation of the School. In case the School will not be activated, the course fee will be fully refunded. No flight ticket or accommodation expense will be reimbursed.**

**The organization strongly recommends to wait for official communications from the Organizing Committee and Algerian authorities (about visas) before booking flights and accomodations.**

## Organizing Commitee:

Paolo Urizzi (Association Perennia Verba, IT)

Sidi Laïd Tidjani (Tijani Zawiya in Tamacine, DZ)

Demetrio Giordani (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, IT)

Michele Petrone (University of Copenhagen, DK)

**For further information please contact:** [perenniaverba@gmail.com](mailto:perenniaverba@gmail.com)

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# Application form for the Summer School “Studies In Sufism” 1<sup>st</sup> Edition – Foundations of Islamic Spirituality

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5-12 September 2017, Tamacine (Algeria)

## Personal information

First Name	
Surname	
Nationality	
Date of Birth	
Place of birth	
Current Address	
Phone	
Email	

## Document

Type	
Nation	
Number	

## Languages

	Level
English	
French	
Arabic	
Other languages	

Levels are: Native speaker, Excellent, Good, Basic, None. You can refer to overall proficiency for your English level and only to perceptive skills for your proficiency level in other languages.

## Education

Please indicate the highest academic or school degrees acquired.

Institution	
Country	
Kind of title	
Year	
Other useful information	

Institution	
Country	
Kind of title	
Year	
Other useful information	

Institution	
Country	
Kind of title	
Year	
Other useful information	

Other experiences related to the topic of the School

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Please attach to the present document a motivation letter in which you illustrate why you are interested in attending the Summer School, how you think you can contribute to it (based on previous academic and non-academic experiences) and your expectations about it.

Please also attach a list of relevant publications (if any, max. 10 titles).

If your application is successful, you will be contacted by the organizers to confirm your attendance and to prepare the necessary documentation for visa.

I want to apply for free accommodation, according to the conditions already advertised.

I consent that the Associazione Perennia Verba will use my personal data for the sole purpose of the organization of the Summer School “Studies in Sufism”.

Date

Signature