Qavvali (CLCS 2514/REL 234)

Credit Hours: 4

Course Pre-Requisites: None

Instructor/s: Ghulam Moeenuddin Nazami, Fatima Fayyaz

Schedule: Monday to Friday (2.00 PM – 4.50 PM)

Course Description

The devotional qavvālī form has long been a part of the Indo-Persian cultural complex. Fluid in form, travelling from one gharānā, or "home," to another, taking on different linguistic guises at various junctures, the qavvālī is a difficult form to theorize and even historicize for scholars of South Asia and Islam. Using the text as an entry point, this course attempts to trace the historical practices and Sufi ideals that undergird the qavvālī tradition, the significance of various gharānās and the distinct attitudes each has brought towards the practice, as well as the linguistic valences that the verses distinguish themselves through (Persio-Arab-Urdu-Punjabi). We will also examine the contemporary renditions of the qavvālī, and pay particular attention to the recent commercialization of the form through platforms such as Coke Studio, as well as its past on national media such as PTV.