|  |
| --- |
| Dr. Godlas is an Associate Professor in the Department of Religion at the University of Georgia, where he also is the Undergraduate Coordinator. In addition, he is the Co-Director of the UGA-Morocco Maymester program. At UGA he teaches Islamic Studies and Arabic courses as well as a survey course on the world's religions. Dr. Godlas is on the steering committee for the UGA [Center for Asian Studies,](http://www.uga.edu/cas) and he is also a member of the [Linguistics faculty,](http://www.linguistics.uga.edu/) the [Medieval Studies Program,](http://parallel.park.uga.edu/~jdmevans/medieval/) and the [African Studies Program.](http://www.uga.edu/afrstu)  A native-born Californian, Dr. Godlas received his M.A. (1983) and Ph.D. (1991) in Near Eastern Studies (specializing in Islamic Studies) from the University of California at Berkeley, under the supervision of Prof. Hamid Algar. Dr. Godlas, however, began his career in higher education by studying for and receiving his B.S. in Ecological Psychology from the University of California at Davis in 1972. He then trained in Gestalt Therapy at the Gestalt Institute of San Francisco from 1973-74 and studied at the SAT Institute under the direction of Dr. Claudio Naranjo in 1974. Subsequently, Dr. Godlas traveled to the Islamic world, studying Persian literature at the University of Tehran from 1974-1976, advanced Arabic as a fellow at the Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) in Cairo in 1983-84, and advanced Turkish as a fellow at Bosporus University in 1984. He has taught at the University of Georgia since 1991.  Dr. Godlas has conducted extensive research in manuscript libraries in Egypt, Morocco, and Turkey. His areas of research include Qur'anic commentary (tafsir), hadith, Islamic mysticism (also known as Sufism) and consciousness transformation, and the relationship between Islam, modernism, and postmodernism. The Islamic texts that he studies are primarily in Arabic, Persian, and Turkish. A final area of his research is the development of a disciplinary framework for the study of religion.  His professional experience includes being on the editorial board of the journal, *Sufi Illuminations,* and being a member of the steering committee of the *Study of Mysticism* and *Study of Islam* sections of the American Academy of Religion. Dr. Godlas was granted a National Endowment to the Humanities fellowship for the study of mysticism with Professor Huston Smith in 1993. In the Summer of 1997, Dr. Godlas received a Fulbright-Hayes fellowship for study in [Uzbekistan](http://www.cu-online.com/~k_a/uzbekistan/). Dr. Godlas is most well-known for his [Islamic Studies](http://www.uga.edu/islam) and [Sufism websites,](http://www.arches.uga.edu/~godlas/Sufism.html) which are generally regarded as the foremost comprehensive academic websites for the study of Islam and Sufism on the entire worldwide web. In April 2002 his Islamic Studies website was one of five nominees for a Webby award in the category of spirituality. (The Webbys are the equivalent of the Oscars for websites.) Among his competitors was the website of the Vatican!  Dr Godlas was among the five well-known figures chosen by Beliefnet, the leading commercial interfaith website, to be interviewed about the best picture nominations for the Oscars in 2002. See [Dr. Godlas' comments about *Moulin Rouge*.](http://aol.beliefnet.com/frameset.asp?sectionID=0&storyID=10330&boardID=37362&pageLoc=/story/103/story_10330_1.html)  **Recent Publications:**   **Editor of *Remembrance: Proceedings of the First Annual International Milad an-Nabi Conference.* Chicago: 1995. This can be ordered from Dr. A. Mirza at** [**NFIE**](mailto:famirza@uic.edu)**.**   **"Hadith and the Qudsiya of Khwajah Muhammad Parsa," in *Remembrance.* Chicago: 1995, 50-73.**   **"The Naqshbandi Lineage of Shaykh Ma'sum Naqshbandi (al-Kurdi)," in *Remembrance.* Chicago: 1995, 91-96.**   **"Psychology and Self-Transformation in the (Arabic) Sufi Qur'an Commentary of Ruzbihan al-Baqli*('Ara'is al-bayan)*,"*Sufi Illuminations,* 1(1996) 31-62. This journal can be ordered from Dr. A. Mirza at** [**NFIE**](mailto:famirza@uic.edu)**.**   **"A Commentary on 'What is Tasawwuf?'-An Anonymous Persian Poem," *Sufi Illuminations,* 1(1996) 63-80.**   **"Rifa'iya," in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World,* ed. by John Esposito (New York: Oxford, 1995) 437-439.**   **"Ni'matallahiya," in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World,* ed. by John Esposito, (New York: Oxford, 1995) 252-53.**  **Currently Dr. Godlas is translating and editing Ruzbihan al-Baqli's encyclopedic esoteric Sufi Qur'anic commentary, *'Ara'is al-bayan* (The Brides of the Qur'an). His contract with his publisher calls for him to finish the approximately 3000 page translation by January 1, 2004.** |

[**Return Home**](http://godlas.myweb.uga.edu/home.html)