**Class Handout on al Jahiz (776-868)**

**and Al Ghazali (1058-1111)**

**I. Al Jahiz:**

1.What is the literary genre of al Jahiz’s “The Epistle of Singing Girls”?

2. Who is al Jahiz satirizing in this text?

3. What does al Jahiz think of the following:

* The institution of gender segregation
* The “qayna” or the slave-singing girl
* The “muqayyen” or the owner of the slave-singing girl
* Women in general (nature, inheritance rights, status in society, marriage rights, etc.
* Marriage and social class
* Jahiliyyah & Early Islamic community vs. Abbasid society.
* Slavery
* Social class

4. Comment on al Jahiz’s diagnosis of « love sickness.” What equivalents do we find for it in British and Italian literatures?

**II. Al Ghazali**:

1. What does al Ghazali think of music, singing, and dance?
2. What arguments does al Ghazali use to demonstrate that Islam does not forbid music and singing?
3. What is the relation between music and religion according to al Ghazali?
4. What should a Muslim do to reconcile music with Islamic propriety according to al Ghazali?
5. What does al Ghazali think of singing girls in particular and of women in general?
6. Compare and contrast the views of al Ghazali and al Jahiz on slavery, women, music, and social class.