

Professor Peter J. Awn

Peter J. Awn is Professor of Islamic and Comparative Religion in the Department of Religion and Dean of the School of General Studies (GS) at Columbia University. He is in his 17th year as Dean and his 36th year as a professor at Columbia. He often speaks to business and academic professionals on the role Islamic religion plays in the current political and social development of the Muslim world.

Most recently, while remaining Dean of GS, Professor Awn served for three years as Director of the Middle East Institute and for three and a half years as Acting Dean of the School of Continuing Education. Before becoming Dean, he served as chair of the Department of Religion, chair of the Steering Committee of the Chairs of the Arts & Sciences Departments, and chair of the Executive Committee of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences.

Professor Awn received his Ph.D. in Islamic Religion and Comparative Religion from Harvard University in 1978, at which point he joined the Columbia faculty. Previously he earned degrees in Philosophy/Classical Languages, and Christian Theology. Professor Awn's book, *Satan's Tragedy and Redemption: Iblīs in Sufi Psychology*, received a book award from the American Council of Learned Societies. In 1984 he was the first recipient of the *Phillip and Ruth Hettleman Award* for distinguished teaching and research. In 1995 Professor Awn received the *Great Teacher Award* from the Society of Columbia Graduates.

Professor Awn continues to teach courses on Islamic mysticism (Sufism) and Islamic Religion as well as Literature Humanities, one of the year-long, signature courses of the Columbia Core Curriculum. He also mentors graduate students working on advanced degrees in the field.