

AL-MAKTOUM INSTITUTE

COURSE DETAILS

Course Code	AM 5002
Course Title	Core Sources and Approaches in the Study of Islam and Muslims
Course Co-ordinator	Dr Alhagi Manta Drammeh
Semester	Autumn

COURSE CONTENT

This course will introduce students to approaches to and critical scholarship in the core sources in the study of Islam and Muslims, particularly the Qur'an and Hadith.

The course will look in particular at the history, context, structure, theology and interpretations of these texts, with a key goal of placing these issues within a scholarly framework. The course will also examine academic methodologies for the application of these texts including *tafsir* (Qur'anic interpretations) the processes of authentication of hadith (*isnad* and *matn*), and the principles of jurisprudence (*usul ul-fiqh*)

COURSE AIMS

1. To enable students to develop critical skills in understanding the Qur'an, including its history and context, its theology (particularly the concept of *tawhid*), its structure and divisions (particularly the Makkah and Madinah surahs) and its form, language and style
2. To explore the relationship between the concepts of reason and revelation within the study of Islam and Muslims
3. To introduce students to the field of *tafsir* particularly in respect of the differences of interpretations, the concept of disagreement (*ikhtilaf*) between scholars and the applications of different interpretations through approaches – such as linguistic, textual and individual – in particular contexts
4. To enable students to develop critical skills in Hadith scholarship introducing them to basic elements of the Sunnah and the life of the Prophet Muhammad, and to give an overview of the historical compilation of the Sunnah traditions.
5. To introduce students to the concepts of authority and authentication in Hadith scholarship, using different sources and the applications of critical analysis within the authentications process (with particular reference to the concepts of *isnad* and *matn*) and to explore the use of these methodologies within the historical context
6. To discuss and explore the relationship and the uses of the Qur'an and Hadith within Islamic schools of thinking
7. To briefly introduce students to the basics of *shari'ah* and the principles of Islamic jurisprudence (*usul ul-fiqh*)

MAIN LEARNING OUTCOMES

On Successful completion of the course students should be able to

1. Show knowledge of the contexts of the Qur'an and Hadith and to be able to use the Qur'an and Hadith texts for reference and study.
2. Have a crucial understanding of key issues relating to core sources such as *tafsir*, authentication of hadiths and basic principles of jurisprudence
3. Discuss issues raised by the Orientalist approaches to core sources and approaches
4. Make best use of the available literature and the latest research on the subject and present sound written and oral arguments and provide personal views on the subject.

Assessment

100% coursework

- 10% seminar presentation
- 30% critical review – 2,000 words
- 60% essay – 3,500 to 4,000 words

Resit: Not normally applicable

Teaching Hours

Total Number of hours	200
Timetabled teaching hours	24
Private Study Time	176