

# *Introduction to the Sciences of ‘Aqīda, Fiqh, and Tazkiya*

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Program	Foundations
Course Title	Introduction to the Sciences of ‘Aqīda, Fiqh, and Tazkiya
Course Number	103
Course Type	Elective
No of credit hour	03
Pre-requisite	none

## **Course Description:**

This course commences a study of the foundational sciences of *'aqīda*, *fiqh*, and *tazkiya*, tracing their development, key figures, and central texts. Students will learn the obligatory knowledge and key concepts related to these sciences such as God's attributes, rulings for ablution and prayer, and basic matters relating to the refinement of character. At the end of the course, students will have gained a holistic understanding of the essential sciences of Islam, and also have a clear plan for deepening and improving their continued spiritual practice.

Knowledge of the fundamental content and methods of Fiqh, Aqida, and Tazkiya, is essential to one's personal practice and spiritual journey. Anyone who also wishes to serve in the capacity of chaplain, educator, da'i, or community leader must be firmly grounded in these core sciences. As part of the Foundations program, this course lays the groundwork for more advanced coursework and research in Fiqh, Aqida, and Tazkiya, and prepares interested students to enroll in the seminary. Having a firm foundation in the cognitive frameworks provided by the scholars of Fiqh, Aqida, and Tazkiya helps one think clearly and act with confidence in all aspects of their role as leader, teacher, guide, or chaplain. This course helps students get closer to gaining the qualifications necessary to accurately deliver this knowledge as a role model, not being content with merely seeking and obtaining knowledge for oneself.

## **Objectives:**

- To educate students about the foundational principles (*al-mabadi*) of fiqh, aqida, and tazkiyya
- To inform students of much of the personally obligatory knowledge of practice, belief, and spiritual purification and suggest avenues to continue to obtain, solidify, and incorporate this knowledge in the near future.
- To introduce students to the intellectual development of these sciences and help them place certain discussions in their historical contexts.
- To enable students to recognize and apply the core technical terminology (*mustalahat*) of 'Aqida, Fiqh, and Tazkiyya.
- To introduce students to the significance and role of key scholars in preserving and developing the core texts in each of these fields.
- To introduce students to modern world organizations that are devoted to the study of Fiqh, Aqida, and Tazkiyah.
- To provide spiritually transformative guidance for all students.
- To train students to think clearly about law, ethics, belief, and spirituality via the established cognitive frameworks (*usuls*) of each science.
- To prepare interested students for the graduate program.
- To demonstrate how to put knowledge into practice and inculcate the Prophetic example into their spiritual practice.
- To train students to apply spiritual excellence in the varied domains of their daily lives.

## **Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- To distinguish between questions of law, theology, and spirituality.
- To list and briefly explain the essential (fard 'ayn) tenets of Islamic belief (tawhid (al-sifat), nuwuwa, sama'iyat) and apply this knowledge by answering common questions that they should expect to be asked as faith leaders.
- To know and practice the essentials (fard 'ayn) connected to Salah.
- To have exposure to and awareness of the the essentials (fard 'ayn) of any actions that are coming up in their lives (Fasting in Ramadan, Zakat, Hajj, buying and selling, etc.).
  - To know where to find this knowledge, who to ask for assistance in mastering this knowledge, and to have a plan to obtain it and put it into practice when it becomes obligatory.
- To assess and evaluate the diversity of beliefs and practices within the Muslim community, connecting this to the intellectual history of law, theology, and spirituality, and informing their service to the diverse and varied Muslim American community.
- To establish an intentional and regular infusion of remembrance of Allah into their daily actions, both worshipful and “mundane”.
- To speak with confidence about Islamic belief and practice.
- To apply the principles of spiritual purification in their daily lives.

## **Course Meeting Dates:**

- Saturday, September 22nd, 2018 10am-3pm
- Sunday 9/30: 6-8pm
- Sunday 10/7: 6-8pm
- Sunday 10/14: 6-8pm
- Sunday 10/21: 6-8pm
- Sunday 10/28: 6-8pm
- Sunday 11/4: 6-8pm
- Sunday 11/11: 6-8pm
- Saturday, December 1st [10-3pm]

Subject and Reading Schedule: (Dates will be specified on the Course Website)

1. Seeking Sacred Knowledge
  - a. “The Proper Conduct of the Teacher and Student” by Harun Spevack [Course Website]
2. The Gabriel Hadith and the Personally Obligatory Knowledge of Fiqh, Aqida, and Tazkiya
  - a. Spevack, *Ghazali on the Principles of Islamic Spirituality* (read translator’s introduction) [Course Website]
3. The sources of Aqida (theology)
  - a. The 10 Points of Departure (al-Mabadi al-’Ash’ara)
    - i. “The 10 Points of Departure for Aqida” by Harun Spevack [Course Website]
  - b. The Three Avenues of Knowledge:
    - i. Selections from Sharh al-Taftazani ‘ala ‘Aqa’id al-Nasafiyya and al-Sanusi’s Umm al-Barahin [Course Website]
  - c. The 3 Sunni Schools
    - i. Ash’ari
    - ii. Maturidi
    - iii. Athari
4. Islamic Monotheism: al-Tawhid
  - a. The Names and Attributes of Allah
    - i. “Safinat al-Naja”, Sh. Salim al-Hadrami **Read Page 4 and footnote #1**  
([https://ia801000.us.archive.org/2/items/SafinatAlNajaEnglishOk/Safinat-al-naja\\_english%20ok.pdf](https://ia801000.us.archive.org/2/items/SafinatAlNajaEnglishOk/Safinat-al-naja_english%20ok.pdf) )
    - ii. The Creed of al-Bajuri (abridgement of al-Sanusi), [Course Website]
    - iii. Highly Recommended:  
Commentary on al-Sanusi’s Creed  
([https://kitaabun.com/shopping3/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=4457](https://kitaabun.com/shopping3/product_info.php?products_id=4457) )
5. Prophecy and Revealed Truth: al-Nubuwa wa al-Sama’iyat
  - a. The Prophetic Attributes
    - i. “Safinat al-Naja”, Sh. Salim al-Hadrami **Read Page 4-5 and footnote #8**  
([https://ia801000.us.archive.org/2/items/SafinatAlNajaEnglishOk/Safinat-al-naja\\_english%20ok.pdf](https://ia801000.us.archive.org/2/items/SafinatAlNajaEnglishOk/Safinat-al-naja_english%20ok.pdf) )
    - ii. The Creed of al-Bajuri (abridgement of al-Sanusi) continued, [Course Website]
  - b. The Prophets (a) mentioned in the Qur’an and how their stories relate to the Prophetic Attributes
    - i. Readings TBA
  - c. Core Revealed Truths (Heaven, Hell, the Bridge, etc.)
    - i. The Creed of al-Bajuri (abridgement of al-Sanusi) continued, [Course Website]
    - ii. Additional Readings TBA
6. The Sources of Fiqh:

- a. The 10 Points of Departure (al-Mabadi al-'Ashara)
  - i. "The 10 Points of Departure for Fiqh" by Harun Spevack [Course Website]  
[Additional Readings TBA]
- b. The 4 Usul
- c. The 5 Legal Rulings
- d. The 5 Aims of Shari'a
- e. Additional Usul
- f. Ijtihad, Mujtahids, and Madhhabs
- 7. Purity and Prayer: Tahara, Wudu, Salah
  - a. "Safinat al-Naja", Sh. Salim al-Hadrami, Pages 8-80  
([https://ia801000.us.archive.org/2/items/SafinatAlNajaEnglishOk/Safinat-al-naja\\_english%20ok.pdf](https://ia801000.us.archive.org/2/items/SafinatAlNajaEnglishOk/Safinat-al-naja_english%20ok.pdf))
- 8. Fasting and Mandatory Charity: Sawm and Zakah
  - a. "Safinat al-Naja", Sh. Salim al-Hadrami, Pages 102-113  
([https://ia801000.us.archive.org/2/items/SafinatAlNajaEnglishOk/Safinat-al-naja\\_english%20ok.pdf](https://ia801000.us.archive.org/2/items/SafinatAlNajaEnglishOk/Safinat-al-naja_english%20ok.pdf))
- 9. The Hajj
  - a. "Safinat al-Naja", Sh. Salim al-Hadrami, Pages 114-123  
([https://ia801000.us.archive.org/2/items/SafinatAlNajaEnglishOk/Safinat-al-naja\\_english%20ok.pdf](https://ia801000.us.archive.org/2/items/SafinatAlNajaEnglishOk/Safinat-al-naja_english%20ok.pdf))
- 10. The Basics of Buying and Selling
  - a. Selections from An Introduction to Islamic Finance, Mufti Taqi Usmani.  
<http://muftitaqiusmani.com/en/books/PDF/An%20Introduction%20To%20Islamic%20Finance/An%20Introduction%20to%20Islamic%20Finance.pdf>
- 11. Brief intro to Marriage and Divorce; Inheritance.
  - a. TBA
- 12. Dietary Laws, Modest Dress, and the Fiqh of Daily Life
  - a. TBA
- 13. The sources of Tazkiya (spiritual development)
  - a. The 10 Points of Departure (al-Mabadi al-'Ash'ara)
    - i. "The 10 Points of Departure for Tazkiya" by Harun Spevack [Course Website]
  - b. Selections from al-Ghazali's 'Arba'in fi Usul al-Din
    - i. Read Books 3 and 4
- 14. Goals of Tazkiya: Purification of Base Traits and Adornment with Meritorious Traits
  - a. TBA
- 15. Methods of Tazkiya
  - a. Review: Spevack, *Ghazali on the Principles of Islamic Spirituality* (read translator's introduction) [Course Website]  
  
[Readings TBA]
  - b. Dhikr
  - c. Mudhakara
  - d. Jihad al-Nafs

Required Readings: (Selections from the following texts)

- a) Fiqh
  - i) "Safinat al-Naja", Sh. Salim al-Hadrami  
([https://ia801000.us.archive.org/2/items/SafinatAlNajaEnglishOk/Safinat-al-naja\\_english%20ok.pdf](https://ia801000.us.archive.org/2/items/SafinatAlNajaEnglishOk/Safinat-al-naja_english%20ok.pdf))
  - ii) An Introduction to Islamic Finance, Mufti Taqi Usmani.  
[http://muftitaqiusmani.com/en/books/PDF/An%20Introduction%20To%20Islamic%20Finance/An\\_Introduction%20\\_to\\_Islamic\\_Finance.pdf](http://muftitaqiusmani.com/en/books/PDF/An%20Introduction%20To%20Islamic%20Finance/An_Introduction%20_to_Islamic_Finance.pdf)
- b) Aqida
  - i) "The 10 Points of Departure for Aqida" by Harun Spevack
  - ii) "The Creed of al-Bajuri" (abridgment of al-Sanusi), trans. Harun Spevack
- c) Tazkiya
  - i) "The 10 Points of Departure for Tazkiya" by Harun Spevack
  - ii) al-'Arba'in fi Usul al-Din (Ghazali)
    - 1) This Book is mandatory for anyone planning on continuing on in the Boston Islamic Seminary degree. Otherwise, it is highly recommended and portions will be made available to students via the website.

<https://www.amazon.com/Ghazali-Principles-Islamic-Spirituality-Religion-Annotated/dp/1594732841>

Some Additional Readings may be added during the semester