



# Stations of the Seeker

TZK 301 | Fall, 2022

**Instructor:** Shaykh Arsalan Haque

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**Zoom Meeting ID:** 843 5218 4375

**Zoom Password:** marifa

**Class Times:** Tuesdays, 6:30 – 9:30 PM

**Class Location:** Quad Room, Plano Masjid

**Admin Email:** [TaqwaAdmin@PlanoMasjid.Org](mailto:TaqwaAdmin@PlanoMasjid.Org)

**Student Portal:** <https://tinyurl.com/tzk301-fal22>

## PREREQUISITES

Successful completion of TZK 201 – Diseases of the Heart & Their Cures. Students who have not fulfilled the prerequisite are welcome to audit this class. To see the audit policy, please visit the web site:

<http://planomasjid.org/marifa/marifa-audit-policy>.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Muslim scholars have classified the Islamic Sciences into three spheres:

1. The sphere of *islām*: This is represented by the legal sciences, studied under the umbrella of Fiqh
2. The sphere of *īmān*: This is represented by the theological sciences, studied under the umbrella of Aqida
3. The sphere of *ihsān*: This is represented by the spiritual sciences, studied under the umbrella of Tazkiya

Tazkiya is the discipline that is concerned with cleansing [*takbliya*] and adorning [*taḥliya*] the inner character [*bāṭin*] of the human being, in compliance with the divine commands.

- How do you reach the level where you can “worship Allah as though you see Him, for if you don’t see Him, He sees you?”
- How do you reach the level of *mushābada* (witnessing), where you witness Allah in everything that happens within you, to you, and around you?
- How do you reach the level of *murāqaba* (watchfulness), where you are acutely aware of Allah’s watch over your inner states and outer actions?

The science of Tazkiya teaches us about those levels, how to reach them, and the stations that we must traverse before we can get to them.

## COURSE OBJECTIVE

To learn about the spiritual stations that the seeker must aspire to reach in the quest to achieve spiritual excellence [*ihsān*].

## TEXTBOOKS

1. **Required:** Ghazali, *The Forty Principles of the Religion*. Turath Publishing.
2. **Recommended:** Qushayri, *al-Qushayri’s Epistle on Sufism*. Garnet Publishing.

## COURSE ASSESSMENT & GRADING

Reflections (1-3 pages; Qty: 10; due Sundays)	20%
Online Quizzes (Qty: 7; lowest grade will be dropped)	30%
Final Paper (due December 13)	50%

*Note: Your final grade must be higher than 70% in order to receive credit for this course.*

## CLASS POLICIES

1. To receive credit for this course, you must attend at least 70% of the classes in-person (i.e. 10 lectures). Students who attend less than 10 lectures will be switched to auditors.
2. Make every possible effort to be on time! Coming late or leaving early can leave you with misunderstandings about what is discussed during class. If you are late or absent, be sure to listen to the class recording before the next class.
3. You are expected to read the assigned portion of the textbook before coming to class. Not doing so will disqualify you from asking questions during class.
4. You may use electronic devices in exclusively for class-related purposes. Cell phones must be silenced during class.
5. Use your full name during all Zoom sessions. Do not use nicknames or fake names. Names that are not on the roster will be removed from the meeting.
6. All assignments must be submitted on time. No exceptions allowed.
7. No make-up exams will be permitted without a documented excuse. Students who miss an exam with a legitimate excuse must email me as soon as possible.

## TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE & READING ASSIGNMENTS

Date	Lecture	Reading Assignment Due
Aug. 30	1: Knowledge [ <i>ʿilm, maʿrifā</i> ]	None
Sep. 6	2: Knowledge (contd.)	None
Sep. 13	3: Repentance [ <i>tawba</i> ]	Required: pp. 202-209 Recommended: pp. 111-117
Sep. 20	4: Striving [ <i>mujābada</i> ]	Required: None Recommended: pp. 118-121
Sep. 27	5: Fear [ <i>khawf</i> ], Hope [ <i>rajāʾ</i> ] & Love [ <i>maḥabba</i> ]	Required: pp. 210-214, 265-279 Recommended: pp. 142-154, 325-334
Oct. 4	6: Shame [ <i>ḥayāʾ</i> ]	Required: None Recommended: pp. 226-228
Oct. 11	7: Asceticism [ <i>zuhd</i> ]	Required: pp. 215-224 Recommended: pp. 134-137
Oct. 18	8: Patience [ <i>ṣabr</i> ]	Required: pp. 225-232 Recommended: pp. 196-201
Oct. 25	9: Gratitude [ <i>shukr</i> ]	Required: pp. 233-240 Recommended: pp. 188-192
Nov. 1	10: Contentment with the Divine Decree [ <i>riḍāʾ</i> ]	Required: pp. 280-286 Recommended: pp. 205-209
Nov. 8	11: Sincerity [ <i>ikhlās</i> ] & Truthfulness [ <i>ṣidq</i> ]	Required: pp. 241-253 Recommended: pp. 220-225
Nov. 15	12: Reliance [ <i>tawakkul</i> ]	Required: pp. 254-264 Recommended: pp. 178-187
Nov. 22	** No Class (Thanksgiving) **	Required: pp. 287-314 Recommended: pp. 312-318
Nov. 29	13: Remembering Death	None
Dec. 6	14: Retreat [ <i>khalwa</i> ], silence [ <i>ṣamt</i> ], remembrance [ <i>dhikr</i> ] & supplication [ <i>duʿā</i> ]	Required: None Recommended: pp. 122-124; 138-141