



Stations of the Seeker

TZK 201 | Fall, 2023

Instructor: Shaykh Arsalan Haque

Office Hours: By appointment only

Instructor Email: TaqwaDirector@PlanoMasjid.Org

Admin Email: TaqwaAdmin@PlanoMasjid.Org

Class Times: Thursdays, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Class Location: Quad Room, Plano Masjid

Zoom Meeting ID: 817 6038 2436

Zoom Password: marifa

PREREQUISITES

Successful completion of *TZK 101 – 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: <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 *iḥsān*: 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 [*iḥsān*].

TEXTBOOKS

1. **Required:** al-Maqdisi, Ibn Qudamah, *Purification of the Soul*. Dar as-Sunnah Publishers.
2. **Recommended:** al-Qushayri, Abu ‘l-Qasim, *al-Qushayri’s Epistle on Sufism*. Garnet Publishing.

COURSE ASSESSMENT & GRADING

Dhikr Sessions (Qty: 4; Wednesday evenings)	10%
Reflections (1-3 pages; Qty: 10; due Tuesdays at 11:59 PM)	20%
Online Quizzes (Qty: 7; lowest grade will be dropped)	30%
Final Paper (due December 14 at 11:59 PM)	40%

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 (i.e. 10 lectures), whether in-person or online. Online students must keep their cameras on and be prepared for active class participation throughout the class. 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.
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. 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. 24	1: Overview & Knowledge [<i>ʿilm, maʿrifa</i>]	Required: None Recommended: pp. 77-78; 319-324
Aug. 31	2: Knowledge contd.; Repentance [<i>tawba</i>]	Required: pp. 15-44 Recommended: pp. 111-117
Sep. 7	3: Repentance contd.	None
Sep. 14	4: Patience [<i>ṣabr</i>] & Thankfulness [<i>shukr</i>]	Required: pp 45-91 Recommended: pp. 196-201; 188-192
Sep. 21	5: Hope [<i>rajāʾ</i>] & Fear [<i>khawf</i>]	Required: pp. 92-123 Recommended: pp. 142-154
Sep. 28	6: Asceticism [<i>zuhd</i>] & Poverty [<i>faqr</i>]	Required: pp. 124-148; 280-287 Recommended: pp. 134-137
Oct. 5	7: Faith in Divine Unity [<i>tawḥīd</i>] & Reliance [<i>tawakkul</i>]	Required: pp. 149-159 Recommended: pp. 178-187; 306-311
Oct. 12	8: Love [<i>maḥabba</i>], Longing [<i>shawq</i>], Intimacy [<i>uns</i>] & Contentment [<i>riḍā</i>]	Required: pp.160-197 Recommended: pp. 325-338; 81-82; 205-209
Oct. 19	9: Intention [<i>niyya</i>], Sincerity [<i>ikhlās</i>] & Truthfulness [<i>ṣidq</i>]	Required: pp. 198-216 Recommended: pp. 220-225
Oct. 26	10: Self-Reckoning [<i>muḥāsaba</i>] & Vigilance [<i>murāqaba</i>]	Required: pp. 217-233 Recommended: pp. 118-121; 202-204
Nov. 2	11: Contemplation [<i>tafakkur</i>]	Required: pp. 234-242 Recommended: None
Nov. 9	12: Remembrance of Death & the Afterlife	Required: pp. 243-288 Recommended: pp. 312-318
Nov. 16	13: Shame [<i>ḥayāʾ</i>]	Required: None Recommended: pp. 226-228
Nov. 23	** No Class (Thanksgiving) **	None
Nov. 30	** No Class **	None
Dec. 7	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

