



# ISLAMIC LEGAL THEORY

USL 102 | Spring, 2025

**Instructor:** Shaykh Arsalan Haque

**Office Hours:** By appointment only

**Instructor Email:** [Imam@PlanoMasjid.Org](mailto:Imam@PlanoMasjid.Org)

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

**Class Times:** Jan. 13-17 (M-F), 6:00 – 9:00 PM

**Class Location:** Plano Masjid (IACC)

**Zoom Meeting ID:** TBA

**Zoom Meeting Password:** TBA

## PREREQUISITES

Successful completion of *MRF 101 – Intro to Learning the Sacred Sciences*. 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

At a time when there is a myriad of opinions about almost everything, and so many people who quote Quran and Sunna to promote their own interpretations of Islam, it has become more important than ever to equip ourselves with the ability to discern right from wrong. *Uṣūl al-Fiqh* is a science which outlines the methodology that must be used by anyone who attempts to pronounce the Islamic legal ruling on an issue. Learning *Uṣūl al-Fiqh* not only gives us an understanding and appreciation for the process of *ijtihad*, but also empowers us to evaluate the legitimacy of a legal opinion. In this course you will learn about the meaning and types of *al-Ḥukm al-Sharʿī*, the sources of Islamic Law, the rules of interpreting sacred texts, the higher objectives of Islamic law [*maqāṣid al-sharīʿa*], legal maxims [*al-qawāʿid al-fiqhiyya*], and the status of innovation [*bidʿa*] in Islam.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To realize how little we know, and how much we need to learn.
2. To appreciate the richness, complexity, and precision of the Islamic scholarly tradition.
3. To distinguish normative Islam from its aberrant interpretations.

## REQUIRED READING

- Zubairi, Furhan. *Introduction to Usul al-Fiqh*, Diamond Bar: Institute of Knowledge, 2019.

## RECOMMENDED READING

- Kamali, Muhammad Hashim, *Principles of Islamic Jurisprudence*. Cambridge: The Islamic Texts Society.
- Hussain, Shahrul, *A Treasury of Sacred Maxims: A Commentary on Islamic Legal Principles*. Kube Publishing Ltd.

## CLASS POLICIES

1. 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.
2. You are expected to read the assigned portion of the textbook before coming to class.
3. You may use electronic devices in exclusively for class-related purposes. Cell phones must be silenced during class.
4. Use your full name during all Zoom sessions. Names that are not on the roster will be removed from the meeting.
5. All assignments must be submitted on time. No exceptions allowed.
6. 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

Jan. 13	<i>al-Ḥukm al-Sharʿī</i>
Jan. 14	The Primary Sources of Sharia: Quran, Sunnah, Ijma' & Qiyas
Jan. 15	The Secondary Sources of Sharia
Jan. 16	Rules of Interpretation, Objectives of Islamic Law & Legal Maxims
Jan. 17	The Status of Innovation in Islam

## COURSE ASSESSMENT & GRADING

There will be a single cumulative exam that must be taken by **February 16**. Your grade must be 70% or higher in order to receive credit for this course.