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Taqwa Seminary



THE MARIFA PROGRAM



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Why Marifa?

‘Abdullāh b. ‘Amr said, “We were gathered around the Messenger of Allah ﷺ talking about the days of turmoil [fitna]. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “[That will be a time] when people will break their agreements, betray their trusts, and become like this” – interlacing his fingers, [indicating that it will become difficult to distinguish good from evil, right from wrong, and truth from falsehood]. At this ‘Amr stood up and said, “May Allah make me your ransom! What should I do when that happens?” The Messenger of Allah ﷺ replied,

خُذْ بِمَا تَعْرِفُ، وَدَعْ مَا تُنْكِرُ

“Hold on to what you know, and leave what you don’t recognize.”¹

At a time when the teachings of Islam are constantly under attack, when we find a myriad of opinions about every religious matter, and people quoting the Quran and Sunna to promote their own interpretations of Islam, it has become more important than ever to take a serious, structured, and well-grounded approach to learning the sacred sciences. The Marifa Program provides a comprehensive 2-year curriculum of part time classes in Islamic studies for college students, young professionals, and adults.

Program Objectives

1. To realize how little we know
2. To appreciate the richness of the Islamic scholarly tradition
3. To distinguish normative Islam from its aberrant interpretations
4. To develop the ability to answer questions about Islam with clarity and accuracy
5. To become inspired to practice Islam with conviction, sincerity, and excellence

¹ Related by Aḥmad and Abū Dāwūd with a sound chain of transmission.



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The Marifa Curriculum

1. AQD 101 – The Creed of Ahl al-Sunnah

Prerequisites: MRF 101

Required Texts: Hussain, Amjad, *The Muslim Creed: A Contemporary Theological Study*.

Recommended Texts: Yusuf, Hamza, *The Creed of Imam al-Tabawi*.

Description: In this course students will learn the essential beliefs of Ahl al-Sunnah about Allah, the divine attributes, the divine decree, Prophets, Scriptures, Angels and life after death. Students will also explore some of the major differences between the various Islamic sects.

2. FQH 101 – The Fiqh of Worship

Prerequisites: USL 101

Required Texts: Ḥanafī: *Ascent to Felicity*; Shāfi'ī: *The Accessible Conspectus*.

Description: In this course students will learn the legal rulings pertaining to purification, prayer, fasting, charity and pilgrimage based on a classic primer in the *madhhab* of their choice.

3. FQH 201 – Family Law: The Fiqh of Marriage & Divorce

Prerequisites: USL 102

Required Texts: Class Notes

Recommended Texts: Mangera, Abdur-Rahman ibn Yusuf, *Healthy Muslim Marriage*; al-Kawthari, Muhammad ibn Adam, *Islamic Guide to Sexual Relations*.

Description: In this course students will explore the Islamic laws that govern the formation, care, and dissolution of the family. Students will learn the rules pertaining to spouse selection, courting, the marriage contract, the wedding, the rights and duties of husbands and wives, divorce, child custody and maintenance.

4. FQH 202 – Commercial Law: The Fiqh of Financial Transactions

Prerequisites: USL 102

Required Texts: Class Notes

Description: The course offers a detailed study of Islamic economics, financial transactions, and its modern-day applications.



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5. FQH 203 – Criminal Law

Prerequisites: USL 102

Required Texts: Class Notes

Description: In this course students will learn about Islamic criminal law, rules of warfare, slavery, and the rights of non-Muslims living in Muslim lands.

6. FQH 301 – Contemporary Legal Issues & Fiqh of Minorities

Prerequisites: FQH 201, FQH 202, FQH 203

Required Texts: Class Notes

Description: In this course students will explore various contemporary legal issues such as residing in non-Muslim lands; relationships with non-Muslims; marrying non-Muslims; non-Islamic holidays & celebrations; meat consumption; giving Zakat to non-profit organizations; and using astronomical calculations for Ramadan & Eid.

7. HDT 101 – An Introduction to the Sciences of Ḥadīth

Prerequisites: MRF 101

Required Texts: Class Notes

Recommended Texts: al-Azami, Muhammad Mustafa, *Studies in Hadith Methodology and Literature*; Zarabozo, Jamal al-Din, *The Authority & Importance of the Sunnah*.

Description: This course is an introduction to the science of hadith criticism. Students will also learn about the unique features of each of the Six Books of hadith.

8. HST 101 – The Story of Mecca: Seerah Until the Hijra

Prerequisites: MRF 101

Required Texts: Mohiuddin, Meraj, *Revelation: The Story of Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him*.

Recommended Texts: Sallaabee, Dr. Ali Muhammad, *The Noble Life of the Prophet (peace be upon him)*.

Description: This course will cover the life of the Prophet ﷺ until his migration to Medina. Students will receive an introduction to the discipline of Seerah, its importance and benefits, the Prophet's lineage, the era from his birth until the first revelation, and the struggles that he and his followers faced in Mecca until the migration to Medina.



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9. HST 201 – The Story of Medina: Seerah After the Hijra

Prerequisites: HST 101

Required Text: Mohiuddin, Meraj, *Revelation: The Story of Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him.*

Recommended Text: Sallaabee, Dr. Ali Muhammad, *The Noble Life of the Prophet (peace be upon him).*

Description: This course will cover the life of the Prophet ﷺ from his migration to Medina until his departure from this world.

10. HST 301 – Lives of the Rightly Guided Caliphs

Prerequisites: HST 201

Required Texts: Class Notes

Recommended Texts: Bājūrī, Muḥammad al-Khuḍarī Bak, *The History of the Four Caliphs.*

Description: This course will cover the major events during the era of the Rightly Guided Caliphs – Abū Bakr, ‘Umar, ‘Uthmān, ‘Alī, and Ḥasan (may Allah be pleased with them).

11. MRF 101 – Introduction to Learning the Sacred Sciences

Prerequisites: NONE

Required Texts: Ibn Rajab, *Heirs of the Prophets*; Ibn Jamā‘a, *Etiquette of the Learner*

Recommended Texts: al-Ghazālī, Abū Ḥāmid, *The Book of Knowledge.*

Description: This is the introductory course for the Marifa Program. In this course students will learn about the virtues, etiquette, and pitfalls of learning the sacred sciences. They will also receive an overview of the major Islamic sciences and what they entail.

12. QRN 101 – Introduction to the Sciences of the Quran

Prerequisites: MRF 101

Required Texts: Qadhi, Yasir, *An Introduction to the Sciences of the Qur’aan*; al-Nawawī, Yahya b. Sharaf, *Etiquette with the Quran.*

Recommended Texts: al-Azami, Muhammad Mustafa, *The History of the Qur’ānic Text*; Usmani, Muhammad Taqi, *An Approach to the Quranic Sciences.*

Description: In this course students will learn about etiquette with the Quran, the history of the Quran, the multiple readings of the Quran, abrogation in the Quran, and approaches in Quranic exegesis.



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13. TZK 101 – Diseases of the Heart & Their Cures

Prerequisites: MRF 101

Required Texts: al-Maqdisi, Ibn Qudamah, *Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*.

Description: This course will introduce the students to the wonders of the spiritual heart, the relationship between the *rūḥ*, *nafs*, *ʿaql* and *qalb*, and provide an overview of the major diseases that plague the heart – their significance, causes, symptoms, and cures.

14. TZK 201 – Stations of the Seeker

Prerequisites: TZK 101

Required Texts: al-Maqdisi, Ibn Qudamah, *Purification of the Soul*.

Recommended Texts: al-Qushayri, Abu 'l-Qasim, *al-Qushayri's Epistle on Sufism*.

Description: In this course students will learn about the spiritual stations that the seeker must aspire to reach in the quest to achieve spiritual excellence [*iḥsān*].

15. USL 101 – Fiqh and the Four Schools: A History of Islamic Law and the Madhhabs

Prerequisites: MRF 101

Required Texts: Class Notes

Recommended Texts: al-Sayis, Muhammad Ali, *A History of Islamic Jurisprudence*; Abu Zahra, *Muhammad, The Four Imams*.

Description: In this course students will learn some basic terminology used by Muslim jurists, explore the evolution of the various schools of jurisprudence, develop an appreciation for the causes of disagreement among Muslim jurists, and learn about *ijtibād* and *taqlid* in Islamic Law.

16. USL 102 – Islamic Legal Theory

Prerequisites: QRN 101, HDT 101, USL 101

Required Texts: Class Notes

Recommended Texts: Zubairi, Furhan, *Introduction to Usul al-Fiqh*; Kamali, Muhammad Hashim, *Principles of Islamic Jurisprudence*. Hussain, Shahrul, *A Treasury of Sacred Maxims: A Commentary on Islamic Legal Principles*.

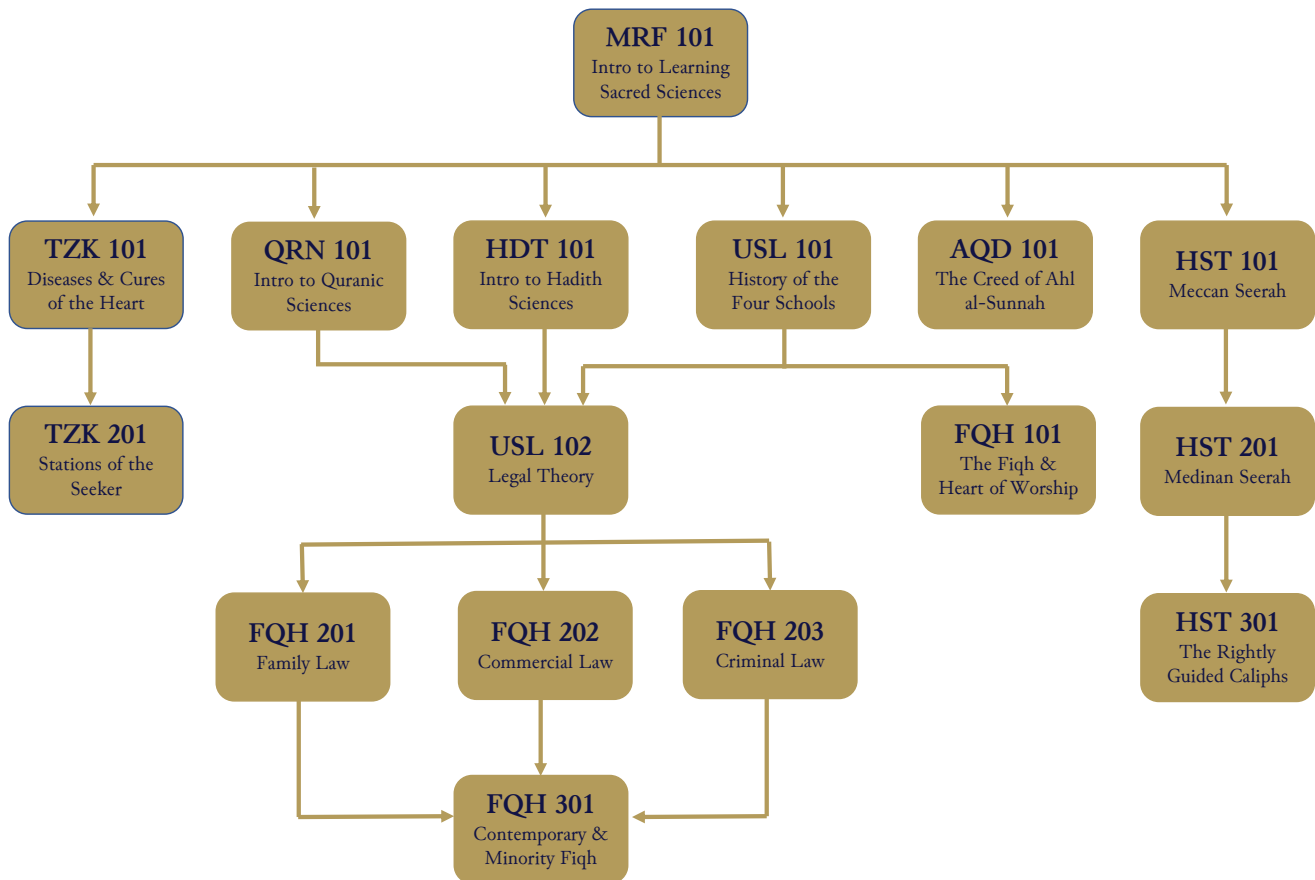
Description: In this course students will learn about the sources of Islamic jurisprudence, the rules of interpreting the sacred texts, the higher objectives of Islamic law [*maqāṣid al-sharīʿa*], legal maxims [*al-qawā'id al-fiqhiyya*], and the status of innovation [*bid'a*] in Islam.



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Course Map



Auditing Our Courses

- Any person of any age may audit any Marifa class with the approval of the course instructor.
- All auditors must pay the course fee in full.
- All auditors must appear on the roster, but distinct from regular students.
- Auditors shall not receive any credit for the course unless they have fulfilled the prerequisites.
- Auditors are not required to submit assignments or take exams. However, they have the option to do so if they want. Their final grade in that case, however, will be indicated by a 'U', which stands for audit.
- Once auditors have completed the prerequisites, their grade will be changed retroactively from 'U' to the grade they earned in class.
- All auditors must abide by the other class policies that are outlined in the course syllabus.



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*Inspiring Muslim men and women to practice Islam
with conviction, sincerity and excellence*



RIWAQ for adults



MARIFA for adults



FALAH for college youth



SUHBA for high-schoolers



RUFQA for middle-schoolers



ARABIC for everyone

*Study Islam heart-to-heart
with your local scholars and teachers*

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