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# Arabic Islamic Studies

## Course Overview

This class will use an integrated approach that bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge (*ulum alat*) and purposeful understanding (*ulum maqasid*), providing immediate practical benefits in accessing and applying the Arabic language.

This course is designed to be holistic, practical, and deeply rooted in tradition, equipping students with a comprehensive understanding of Arabic and Islamic sciences. We aim to draw directly from the Quran, Sunnah, and Islamic manuscripts as we study the Arabic language. This approach not only strengthens our connection with the religion but also inspires us to continue learning with purpose and enthusiasm. Too often, students experience minimal progress or fail to see tangible benefits, lost in memorizing conjugation tables or abstract grammatical rules, which becomes the primary reason for abandoning their pursuit of a new language. By integrating meaningful content, we ensure a rewarding and motivating learning experience.

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### *Difficulty Level*

This course is designed for beginners who have no prior knowledge of Arabic beyond recognizing the letters of the script. It assumes that the student can read Arabic in the basic sense: identifying the letters and vowel marks and sounding out words. Fluency and comprehension are not expected; developing these abilities is the purpose of the course.

When we describe this course as being for absolute beginners, we mean that even commonly recognized words such as Allah, Islam, and Muslim will be introduced and treated as new vocabulary.

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### *Class Structure*

Each class is divided into two components:

1. **Grammar or Morphology:** A focused study of linguistic structures.

2. **Scriptural Examples:** Real-world applications using examples from the Quran, Hadith, or Islamic manuscripts.
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### *Course Framework*

The 40 weeks will be divided into four 10-week quarters as follows:

1. Quran, Hadith, & Dua
2. Aqidah (Islamic Beliefs)
3. Fiqh (Islamic Jurisprudence)
4. Tasawwuf (Spirituality)

#### **Quarter 1: Quran, Hadith, & Dua**

- Introduction to the class and methodology
- **Topical Vocabulary:**
  - Study of Surahs: *Fatiha, Nas, Falaq, Ikhlas, Asr*
  - *Hadith Jibril* (repeated for reinforcement)
- **Progressive Grammar:**
  - The Three Word Types: Ism / Fi'1 / Ḥarf
  - Signs of the Ism
  - Signs of the Fi'1
  - Signs of the Ḥarf
  - Attached Pronouns
  - Mabnī (fixed endings)
  - Mu'rab (changeable endings)

#### **Quarter 2: Aqidah**

- **Topical Vocabulary:**
  - Fundamentals of creed
  - Creation & Causation
  - Attributes of Allah
  - Attributes of Prophethood
- **Progressive Grammar:**
  - The Four Grammatical States: Raf' / Naṣb / Jarr / Jazm
  - Primary vowel signs: Ḍammah / Faṭḥah / Kasrah / Sukūn
  - Definite vs Indefinite (al / tanwīn)
  - Gender (masculine / feminine)

- Number (singular / dual / plural)

### **Quarter 3: Fiqh**

- **Topical Vocabulary:**

- Understanding Rulings
- Purification:
  - *Hadath & Wudu* (causes, conditions, prohibitions, integrals, sunan)
  - *Janaba & Ghusl* (causes, conditions, prohibitions, integrals, sunan)
- Prayer:
  - Conditions, integrals, invalidators, and Friday/Sunnah prayers
- Fasting:
  - Integrals and how to perfect the act

- **Progressive Grammar:**

- Sound vs Broken Plural
- Nominal Sentence (mubtada' + khabar)
- Verbal Sentence (fi'l + fā'il)
- Direct Object (maf'ūl bihi)

### **Quarter 4: Tasawwuf**

- **Topical Vocabulary:**

- Spiritual purification:
  - The Heart
  - The Limbs

- **Progressive Grammar:**

- Root System (trilateral roots)
- Past Tense Verb (al-māḍī)
- Present Tense Verb (al-muḍāri')
- Imperative Verb (al-amr)

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*Class Resources*

### **General Resources**

- *Abjadiya*
- *Ajrumiyyah*
- *Matn Bana fi Sarf*

## Quran, Sunnah, & Dua

### Aqida

- *Risalah Jami*
- *Safwat Zubda*
- Works of *Dardir, Laqqani, and Tahawi*
- *Haddad (Chapter 17 of Keys to Jannah by Ahmad al Mashhur al Haddad)*

### Fiqh

- *Risalah Jami*
- *Safwat Zubda*
- *Safinat Najah*
- *Muqaddimah Hadramiyah*

### Tasawwuf

- *Risalah Jami*
- *Safwat Zubda*

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### *Expectations*

To ensure a productive and enriching learning environment, the following expectations have been set for all students. Please review them carefully and strive to meet them throughout the course.

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## 1. Respect for Shaykh, Students, and Resources

- All course materials (PDFs, translations, access to manuscripts, course recordings, etc.) are provided exclusively for the use of enrolled students. Do not share any of these resources outside the student group. This is an amana (trust) with Allah.
- Treat all course materials, including books, handouts, and digital resources, with care.
- Maintain a respectful demeanor toward the instructor and fellow students.
- Uphold the principles of adab (Islamic manners) in all interactions.
- This is a co-ed class, meaning men and women are welcome in the same space. The class will be segregated in line with Islamic principles of modesty and cultural values and etiquette.

## 2. Preparation

- Complete all assigned readings, exercises, or tasks before class.
- Attend all scheduled classes; recordings are provided. Consistent attendance is crucial for steady progress.

## 3. Participation

- Listen attentively and take notes; students are people of inkwells.
- Actively participate in our student portal discussions and activities to reinforce your understanding of the material.
- Engage respectfully with the instructor and peers, fostering a supportive and collaborative learning environment.
- Take advantage of the opportunities for Q&A.

## 4. Advocacy

- A student of knowledge must carry himself or herself with dignity and self respect. Turn away from every haram, fulfill every fard, and pray all the obligatory prayers in their earliest times.
- A student is an extension of the teacher, and in turn an extension of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Be a worthy ambassador of Islam.

## 5. Practice

- Regular practice is essential for mastering the Arabic language. Set aside dedicated time each day (even if 15 minutes) for reviewing class material and completing assignments.
- Homework should be submitted on time and reflect your best effort.

## 6. Focus on Meaningful Learning

- Approach the course with a commitment to integrating the knowledge of Arabic with its application in understanding the Quran, Sunnah, and Islamic manuscripts. Apply what you learn each week.
- Embrace the journey. Slowly learning vocabulary and grammar through practical examples allows for immediate use and benefit from the language. However, this is a long commitment. It must become a lifestyle change. **You forget in a week what took you a month to learn**, so never abandon learning.

## 8. Feedback and Support

- Feedback is to be done privately, via [email](mailto:ibrahim.whitney@turathinstitute.org): [ibrahim.whitney@turathinstitute.org](mailto:ibrahim.whitney@turathinstitute.org).
- If you encounter difficulties in understanding or keeping up with the course, inform the instructor promptly. Support will be provided to help you succeed, with Allah's permission.
- Constructive feedback is welcome. Share suggestions to improve the class experience.

## 9. Commitment to Growth

- Learning Arabic is a journey that requires patience, dedication, and consistency. Stay motivated by focusing on the purpose and benefits of your efforts.
- Encourage and support your fellow students, creating a sense of community within the class.

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By adhering to these expectations, you will maximize your learning experience and contribute to a positive and enriching classroom environment.