

Module Title: ‘Ulūm al-Qur’an

Module Code: ULMQUR

Course Duration: 17 Weeks

Teaching Method: 2 units/week

Credits: 15

Overview:

This module aims to introduce students to the academic study of the Qur’an. It will define and provide a brief historical background of ‘*Ulūm al-Qur’an*, together with the definition of its subject matter, its objectives and its benefits. It will trace the history of the Qur’an from revelation, compilation, and early texts and manuscripts of the Qur’an. Moreover, this module will acquaint students with classical texts written on ‘*Ulūm al-Qur’an* and provide a detailed and extensive study of its major discussions, debates, and themes. In the second year, students will have a separate module on *Tafsīr* methodology (Qur’anic hermeneutics) and its critique. In the third year, students will have several in-depth seminars examining the compilation of the Qur’an and Orientalism.

Syllabus:

The following are the subjects that are discussed in this module:

Subject matter, definition and relevance of ‘*Ulūm al-Qur’an*

History and development of ‘*Ulūm al-Qur’an*

The miraculous nature of the Qur’an and its status for the Muslim community and individual

The text of the Qur’an and its division:

The first and the last verses (*āyāt*) to be revealed

The first and the last chapters (*Sūra* pl. *Suwar*)

The present arrangement of the verses of the Qur’an

Classifications of chapters

Divisions of the text of the Qur’an and their significance

The language of the Qur’an and words from foreign languages

Example of the verses of prostration

The Unconnected letters (*al-ḥurūf al-muqaṭṭa’āt*)

Tajwīd

Intermission in revelation

Classification of verses, namely:

Makkī and *Madanī* verses

The definite (*muḥkam*) and indefinite (*mutashābih*) verses

Abrogation (*naskh*): *nāsikh* and *mansūkh*

Jurisprudential categories: *amr, nahy, mafhūm, 'āmm/khāṣṣ, muṭlaq/muqayyad, mujmal/mubayyan*

Compilation of the Qur'an: *tawātur, qirā'āt*, and brief treatment of Orientalist research

Revelation (*wahy*):

Wahy as mentioned in the Qur'an

Wahy and the Prophets (the different types of *wahy* and the divisions/degrees of Prophethood)

The difference between *wahy* (revelation) and *ilhām* (inspiration)

Occasions of revelation (*asbāb al-nuzūl*):

The difference between *sabab al-nuzūl* and *sha'n al-nuzūl*

The importance of knowing the occasion of revelation of a verse
Implications of *asbāb al-nuzūl*: Meaning and interpretation

Essential and accidental division of Qur'anic teachings

Eternality of the Qur'anic verses

Tafsīr and *ta'wīl*: etymology, modes, typology, major scholars and their works

Learning outcomes:

On completion of this module, the successful student will be able to:

- Discuss the development and compilation of the Qur'an critically
- Have knowledge of the main disciplines of Qur'anic studies
- Discuss the aims mentioned above
- Analyse the structure and stylistic features of parts of the Qur'anic text
- Understand the difference between *ta'wīl* and *tafsīr*
- Have a clear understanding of the theological debates pertinent to '*Ulum al-Qur'an*

Assessment Weighting:

50% Exam

50% Assignment

Learning Materials:

Essential Reading:

'Mujaz 'Ulum al-Quran" by Dawud al-'Attar

Quranic sciences by Abbas Jaffer

Further Reading:

Ahmad, Syed Barakat, (1984), *Introduction to Qur'anic Script*, London: Curzon Press

Bakhsh, Haji Rahim, (1984), *Excellence of the Holy Qur'an*, , Faisalabad, Pakistan: Dar-UI-Ehsan Publications

Baljon, J.M.S., (1968), *Modern Muslim Koran Interpretation*, Leiden, Holland: E.J. Brill

Bell, Richard, A. (1991), *Commentary on the Qur'an*. (2 volumes), Manchester: University of Manchester

Bell, R. A., (1997), *Introduction to the Qur'an*, revised by Watt, W M, Islamic Surveys, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press

Berg, H., (2000), *The Development of Exegesis in Early Islam: The Authenticity of Muslim Literature from the Formative Period*, London: Curzon Press

Binark, Ismet & Eren, Halit, (1986), *World Bibliography of Translations of the Meanings of the Holy Qur'an*, IRCICA, Istanbul, Turkey

Burton, John, (1977), *The Collection of the Qur'an*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Cragg, Kenneth, (1971), *The Event of the Qur'an*, London: George Allen and Unwin

Cragg, Kenneth, (1973), *The Mind of the Qur'an*, London: George Allen & Unwin

Flugel, Gustav, (1979), *Concordance of the Koran*, Karachi: Rahim Brothers

Gätje, Helmut, (1976), *The Qur'an and its Exegesis*, London: Routledge and Kegan Paul

Gilchrist, John, (1989), *Jam` al-Qur'an: The Codification of the Qur'an Text*, Jesus to the Muslims, Benoni, South Africa.

Haeri, Shaykh Fadhlalla, (1982), *Man in Qur'an and the Meaning of Furqan*, Texas, USA: Zahra Publications

- Haleem, G et al, (1993), *Approaches to the Qur'an*, London: Routledge
- Imam, A. A., (1998), *The Variant Readings of the Qur'an*, (Virginia: International Institute of Islamic Thought)
- Izutsu, Toshihiko (1964), *God and Man in the Koran*, New York: Books for Libraries
- Jeffery, Arthur, (1975), *Materials for the History of the Text of the Qur'an*, New York: AMS Press,
- The Foreign Vocabulary of the Qur'an*, 1977 (1938), Al-Biruni, Lahore, Pakistan.
- The Qur'an as Scripture*, 1980 (1952), New York, United States of America: Books for Libraries
- Kassis, Hanna E., (1983), *A Concordance of the Qur'an*, Los Angeles, USA: University of California Press
- Mahmud, Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din, (1985), *Introduction to the Study of the Holy Qur'an*, London: The London Mosque
- McClain, Ernest G., (1981), *Meditations Through the Qur'an*, York Beach, USA: Nicolas Hays Inc.
- Muhtar-Katircioglu, Mahmud, (1935), *The Wisdom of the Qur'an*, London: Oxford University Press
- Muir, Sir William, (1903), *The Coran: Its Composition and Teaching and the Testimony it Bears to the Holy Scriptures*, London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge
- Nöldeke, Theodor, 1981 (1909), *Geschichte des Qorans*, Hildesheim, Germany: Georg Olms
- Penrice, John, 1979 (1873), *A Dictionary and Glossary of the Koran*, London: Curzon Press
- Qadi, Yasir (1999), *An Introduction to the Sciences of the Qur'an*, UK
- Roberts, Robert, (1925), *The Social Laws of the Qorân*, London: Williams and Norgate Ltd.
- Sale, George. *Preliminary Discourse to the Koran*, London: Frederick Warne & Co. Ltd. (n.d.)
- Wherry, E.M., 1975 (1986), *A Comprehensive Commentary on the Koran*. (4 volumes), New York, USA: AMS Press
- Seale, M.S., (1978), *Qur'an and Bible: Studies in Interpretation and Dialogue*, London: Croom Helm Ltd.
- Sell, Canon, (1923), *The Historical Development of the Qur'an*, London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co. Ltd.

Shah, Rev. Ahmad, *Miftah-ul-Qur'an*. (2 volumes), Lahore, Pakistan: The Book House (n.d.)

al-Sha`rawi, Shaykh Muhammad Mitwalli, *The Miracles of the Qur'an*, London: Dar al Taqwa Ltd. (n.d.)

Siddiqi, Mazheruddin, (1965), *The Qur'anic Concept of History*, Karachi, Pakistan: Central Institute of Islamic Research

Stanton, H.U. Weitbrecht, 1969 (1919), *The Teaching of the Qur'an*, New York, USA: Biblo & Tannen

as-Suyuti, Jalaluddin al-Khudairi ash-Shafi`i, (1980), *Al-Itqan fi `Ulum al-Qur'an*, , Osnabrück, Germany: Biblio Verlag

al-Tabari, Abu Jafar Muhammad, (1988), *Jami` al-Bayan `an Ta`wil al-Qur'an* (15 volumes), Dar al-Fikr, Beirut, Lebanon: Dar al-Fikr

The Commentary on the Qur'an, (Volume One), Oxford: Oxford University Press (1987)

Tabataba`i, `Allamah Sayyid M.H., (1987), *The Qur'an in Islam*, London: Zahra Publications