

**Module Title:** Linguistic discussions in *ʿIlm al-Uṣūl*

**Module Code:** USLALF

**Course Duration:** 34 Weeks

**Teaching Method:** 4 units/week

**Credits:** 15

### **Overview:**

This module aims to critically assess the first chapter of Shaykh Muḥammad Riḍā Muẓaffar's *Uṣūl al-Fiqh*, which focuses on the debates in *Mabāḥith al-Alfāz* (linguistic discussions). This module will demonstrate how linguistic theories are applied in the interpretation and derivation of laws from their sources by providing practical examples. Moreover, this module will also give a critique of the orthodox Uṣūlī linguistic theories and draw parallels with contemporary developments in philosophy of language and hermeneutics. It also aims to acquaint and familiarise students with the Arabic language employed in the Muslim legal discourse by orthodox jurists.

### **Syllabus:**

- Study of language theories and their application in the interoperation of the sources of law in orthodox Muslim legal theory from the linguistic discussions (*Mabāḥith al-Alfāz*) from the first volume of Shaykh Muẓaffar's *Uṣūl al-Fiqh* (pp.9-179)
- A critique of the language theories applied in orthodox derivation of Islamic law
- Discussion and application of contemporary developments in the philosophy of language and hermeneutics

### **Learning outcomes:**

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

- Critically and independently discuss and debate topics and discourses in *Mabāḥith al-Alfāz* from the first volume of Shaykh Muẓaffar's *Uṣūl al-Fiqh*.
- Independently critique the orthodox positions related to this topic.
- Have developed their research skills through comparative studies between classical Muslim legal theory and contemporary philosophy of language and hermeneutics.

### **Assessment Weighting:**

- Semester 1:
  - 30% Assignment
  - 20% Oral Exam
  
- Semester 2:
  - 50% Exam

### **Learning Materials:**

#### Core Texts:

Al-Muzaffar, M. R., (2004), *Uṣūl al-Fiqh* (Vol. 1), Qom: Intishārāt Ismāʿīliyyān