Module Title: ʿUlūm al-Ḥadīth

Module Code: ULMHAD
Course Duration: 17 Weeks
Teaching Method: 2 units/week
Credits: 15

Overview:

The module on ʿUlūm al-Ḥadīth will be divided into two parts: the first part of this module will focus specifically on Ḥadīth sciences themselves, whereby it will define the subject matter, objectives, benefits and the origin and historical development of ʿUlūm al-Ḥadīth. This part of the module will also introduce the students to the four periods of compilation of ḥadīth and the circumstances which led to the development of each stage until the time of the authors of the canonical texts. Moreover, this part will introduce students to a detailed discussion on the main topics and themes covered in the traditional literature on ʿUlūm al-Ḥadīth and will introduce students to ḥadīth terminology. It will also demonstrate the link and relationship between ʿUlum al-Ḥadīth and other Muslim disciplines.

The second part of this module will deal with ʿIlm al-Rijāl (Biographical Studies). ʿIlm al-Rijāl is an important Muslim discipline as it establishes the authenticity of narrations. It is not to be confused with tarjumah (biographies) which is a designation to biographies of personalities in general; whereas ʿIlm al-Rijāl provides the rubrics of the importance, principles and classification of biographical data of narrators of ḥadīth insofar as is necessary for ʿUlūm al-Ḥadīth. This part of the module will define ʿIlm al-Rijāl, and give an overview of its subject matter, its objectives, its benefits and its origin and historical development. It will also link the science of rījāl with other Muslim disciplines and explain their mutual relationship, especially with ʿUlūm al-Ḥadīth and Islamic History.

This module will test that students have the skills to independently verify the authenticity of traditions according to the criteria and methodology of classical ʿUlūm al-Ḥadīth and ʿIlm al-Rijāl.

Syllabus:

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

Definition, history and development, subject matter and benefits of ʿUlūm al-Ḥadīth

The relationship between ʿUlūm al-Ḥadīth and other Islamic disciplines

The components of a tradition

The categories of reports

A critical study of all the major themes, theories, methodologies, and terminologies from classical texts on ʿIlm Muṣṭalaḥ al-Ḥadīth (Ḥadīth terminology)

The sources of Ḥadīth

Fabricated reports (mawḍūʿāt)
A critical study of all the major themes, theories, methodologies, and terminologies from classical texts on ‘Ilm al-Rijāl and ‘Ilm al-Jarḥ wa al-Ta‘dīl.

The relationship between ‘Ilm al-Rijāl, Ulūm al-Ḥadīth and other Islamic disciplines

Practical application of the principles of ‘Ilm al-Rijāl and Ulūm al-Ḥadīth

Learning outcomes:

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

- Critically discuss the development of the methodology and debates in Ulūm al-Ḥadīth
- Have the knowledge of the terminologies employed in the authentication of reports by classical scholars of ḥadīth.
- Establish the link and relationship between Ulūm al-Ḥadīth and other Islamic disciplines.
- Have the knowledge of ḥadīth typology including the mawḍūʿ āt
- Discuss the development of ‘Ilm al-Rijāl and ‘Ilm al-Jarḥ wa al-Ta‘dīl.
- Critically discuss the methodology of rījāl
- Apply the methodologies of textual criticism and evaluation of reporters of traditions to other disciplines such as theology, law and jurisprudence.
- Engage in a critical analysis of the chain and text of ḥadīth

Assessment Weighting:

50% Assignment
50% Exam

Learning Materials:

Core Texts:


Iyrwānī, Bāqir, (1999), Durūs Tamhīdiyya fil Qawā‘id al Rijāliyya, Qom: Muassasat al-Fiqh
Kamali, Mohammad Hashim, (2005), A Textbook of Hadith Studies: Authenticity, Compilation, Classification and Criticism of Hadith, Leicestershire: Islamic Foundation

Further Reading:
