Module Title: ʿUlūm 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 ʿUlūm 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 ʿUlūm 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 ʿUlūm al-Qur’an
- History and development of ʿUlūm 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 (Ṣūra 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-muqaṭṭaʿaʾāt)
  - Tajwīd
  - Intermission in revelation
    - Classification of verses, namely:
      - Makkī and Madani verses
      - The definite (muḥkam) and indefinite (mutashābīh) verses
      - Abrogation (naskh): nāsikh and mansūkh
Jurisprudential categories: amr, nahi, mafhūm, ʿāmm/khāṣṣ, mutlaq/muqayyad, mujmal/mubayyan

Compilation of the Qurʾan: tawātur, qirāʿāt, and brief treatment of Orientalist research

Revelation (waḥy):

Waḥy as mentioned in the Qurʾan
Waḥy and the Prophets (the different types of waḥy and the divisions/degrees of Prophethood)
The difference between waḥy (revelation) and ilhām (inspiration)

Occasions of revelation (asbāb al-nuzūl):
The difference between sabab al-nuzūl and shaʿn 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 Qurʾanic teachings
Eternality of the Qurʾanic verses

Tafsīr and taʾwīl: 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 Qurʾan critically
- Have knowledge of the main disciplines of Qurʾanic studies
- Discuss the aims mentioned above
- Analyse the structure and stylistic features of parts of the Qurʾanic text
- Understand the difference between taʾwīl and tafsīr
- Have a clear understanding of the theological debates pertinent to ‘Ulum al-Qurʾan

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:


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


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


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 Furuqan, Texas, USA: Zahra Publications


*The Qur’an as Scripture*, 1980 (1952), New York, United States of America: Books for Libraries


Qadi, Yasir (1999), *An Introduction to the Sciences of the Qur’an*, UK


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


