

Module Title: Rational Discussions in *ʿIlm al-Uṣūl*

Module Code: USLAQL

Course Duration: 34 Weeks

Teaching Method: 4 units/week

Credits: 15

Overview:

This module aims to critically assess the second chapter of Shaykh Muḥammad Riḍā Muẓaffar's *Uṣūl al-Fiqh*, which focuses on the discourse on *al-Mulāzima al-ʿAqliyya* (Rational Correlation). This module will engage in a detailed study of the role of rationality in orthodox Muslim jurisprudence both as an independent source of law (*al-mustaqillāt al-ʿaqliyya*), as well as its validity as a subsidiary tool in the derivation of laws (*ghayr al-mustaqillāt al-ʿaqliyya*). It will demonstrate, through practical examples, how jurists employ interpretive devices in deriving and explaining laws from their sources. Moreover, this module will also give a critique of the orthodox Uṣūlī perception of the role of rationality and draw parallels with classical and contemporary meta-ethical discourses. It also aims to acquaint and familiarise students with the Arabic terminology employed in the Muslim legal discourse by orthodox jurists.

Syllabus:

- Study of the role of reason and other subsidiary interpretive devices in the interpretation and derivation of Islamic law from the second volume of Shaykh Muẓaffar's *Uṣūl al-Fiqh* (pp.180-312) on *al-Mulāzima al-ʿAqliyya* (rational correlation).
- A critique of the role of reason as discussed in the orthodox discourse on Islamic legal theory.
- Comparative discussion between the classical Muslim understating of the role of reason and classical and contemporary meta-ethical discourses.

Learning outcomes:

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

- Know and critically discuss the discussion and debates from the second 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 classical and contemporary meta-ethical discourse.

Assessment Weighting:

- Semester 1:
 - 25% Assignment
- Semester 2:
 - 50% Exam
 - 25% Oral Exam

Learning Materials:

Core Texts:

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