

Muntakhab Nisab

Background:

This course is based off of a lecture series developed by Dr. Israr Ahmad, who in turn developed and expanded upon a course taught by Islahi.

Though Islamic studies cover a wide range of topics, this course focuses on Imaan – the foundation of Islam. Specifically, the objective of this course is to identify the responsibilities and characteristics of those who have Imaan. This course is rooted in the Qur’an – with each lesson focusing on a specific selection of ayaat. Hadeeth, Islamic scholarship, and knowledge of general humanities may also be cited to substantiate or further explain the meaning of the Qur’anic ayaat.

The primary motivation behind this course is to educate Muslims about their full responsibilities so that they may qualify themselves for Allah’s mercy on the Day of Judgement and thereby achieve the true success – salvation and eternal bliss. The importance of this can be illustrated using the example of a professional. Suppose a professional is hired for a certain job requiring 10 responsibilities. If the professional limits his work to only 3 of the responsibilities – he will fail to fulfill the full range of responsibilities assigned to him. It may be that the professional excelled at those 3 tasks, but by neglecting the remaining 7, he has failed in his overall job performance. In this sense, it is possible that a very pious Muslim fails to achieve salvation because he remained ignorant of his responsibilities in Islam. Just as a pious worship in Christianity is too may the pious worship of a Muslim be misguided if he remains ignorant of his

After studying the course, it is hoped that Muslims will – insha’Allah – develop:

- i. a stronger commitment to building on their relationship with Allah,
- ii. a stronger understanding of their responsibilities,
- iii. a stronger motivation to purify themselves through attachment to the Qur’an and the sunnah of Muhammad (SAWS),
- iv. a greater awareness of their own shortcomings and the need to embody the ideal characteristics of true believers,
- v. a powerful desire to call others to Allah’s Deen
- vi. a strong foundation for further building on their relationship with Allah through the Qur’an. they should strive to develop, a strong relationship with the Qur’an, a powerful desire to call others to Allah’s Deen, confidence in their mission to establish the Deen of Allah on this earth.

Syllabus:

I. Overview

- A. Pre-requisites for Salvation and Eternal Success (Surat al-Asr)
- B. Conception of Real Virtue, Probity and Piety – Taqwa –(ayat al-Bir: Surat al-Baqara ; 2:177)
- C. Foundations of the Qur’anic Wisdom –(ruku 2: surat al-Luqman)
- D. The Greatest Good Fortune –(ayaat 30-36: Ha Mim as-Sajda)

II. Imaan

- A. The Holistic Basis of the Qur’anic Wisdom and Philosophy – (Surat al-Fatiha)
- B. Imaan of the Men of Understanding (last ruku of Surah Aali-Imran)
- C. Constituent Parts of the Light of Imaan – Light of Fitrah (pure primordial human nature) and the Light of Revelation –(Ruku 5: Surah Nur)
- D. Imaan: It’s Consequences (fruits) and Implications –(Surah Taghabun)
- E. Qur’anic Reasoning for affirming the Hereafter – (Surah Qiyamah)

III. Good Deeds

- A. Qur’anic Foundations of Character-Building – (Surah Mominoon & Surah al-Ma’arij)
- B. Character Traits of a True Believer’s Personality – (last Ruku of Surah al-Furqan)
- C. Basic Principles (Blueprint) of the Family/Social Life in Islam – (Surah Tahreem)
- D. Social Values in the Islamic Perspective – (Surah Bani-Israel)
- E. The Guiding Principles for Muslim Political Life and the existence of Muslims as a Global Religious Fraternity

IV. Enjoining to Truth