

ACADEMY FOR LEARNING ISLAM (ALI)

Syllabus for Course 008: Family Life in Islam

Instructor: Hasnain Kassamali, MA (UBC 1997)

Class Meets on Wednesdays from 8:15 to 10:15 p.m.

Office Hours for Course Related matters: Thursdays 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Telephone/Fax: 604-214.0786 Email: academy@telus.net

The Course

The family Life of a believer is an important part of fulfilling his/her responsibilities in this world. Islam has laid down many rules and recommendations for the family structure. In ALI 008 we will Inshâ'-Allah study various important issues in the Islamic family structure.

Requirements

Regular attendance, active participation in the discussion groups, reading the assigned sections from the text and suggested articles, answering to any four of eight essay questions, and filling the end-of-course survey form.

Useful Resources

1. *The Muslim Family* Al-Balâgh Foundation, Tehran, Iran 1995
2. Ansariyan, Husayn *The Islamic Family Structure* tr. Ms. Usa Zynab Morgan, Dr. Ali Peiravi, Ansariyan Publishers, Qum, 2000
3. Rizvi, Sayyid Saeed Akhtar *The Family Life of Islam*, World Islamic Network, Bombay.
4. Amini, Ayatullah Ibrahim *Principles of Marriage and Family Ethics* Islamic Propagation Organization, Tehran 1988
5. Rizvi, Sayyid Muhammad *Marriage and Morals in Islam* Islamic education and Information Center, Toronto 1990
6. Kassamali, Tahera *Raising Children* Tayyiba Publishers, Richmond, 1997

Sessions and Readings

Session One: Recitation from the Qur'ân with brief explanation of âyât 66: 10 -12. Aims of the course and some clarification. The sanctity of family life in Islam. Many prophets received support of family members in carrying out their missionary work. Family respect and love as found in Hadîth al-Kisâ'. Spiritual aspect of a family life.

Session Two: Recitation from the Qur'ân with brief explanation of âyât 30:20 - 22.
Marriage I - Islamic view of Marriage. Qur'ânin âyât and Hadîth on marriage. The goals and aims of marriage. Basic rules regarding marriage and Nikâh.

Session Three: Recitation from the Qur'ân with brief explanation of âyât 24: 32 - 33.
Marriage –II. Choosing a spouse. Present day obstacles to marriage. Rights of husbands and wives. Divorce and its effects.

Session Four: Recitation from the Qur'ân with brief explanation of âyât 16:90 -91.
Rights of close relatives and the extended family. Relations with the in-laws.

Session Five: Recitation from the Qur'ân with brief explanation of âyât 24: 21 - 22.
Family Ethics - Positive virtues in family relationships: love, forgiveness, good communication, mutual trust, give & take, etc.

Session Six: Recitation from the Qur'ân with brief explanation of âyât 36: 77 - 83.
Conflict Resolution – find ways to avoid bitterness even in serious disagreements. Dealing with anger, jealousy, stubbornness, lethargy etc. Arguing reasonably.

Session Seven: Recitation from the Qur'ân with brief explanation of âyât 18: 45 -46.
Material Issues in the family. Love for materialism not worth the arguments between the families. How much should a husband earn? What should be economic contribution of a wife?

Session Eight: Recitation from the Qur'ân with brief explanation of âyât 31: 17 -19.
Raising of children – Rights of children in Islam. Countering the influence of Western environment. Raising good Muslim children.

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