

ALI 047b: Family Life in Islam

Course Introduction

This course will cover attributes necessary for harmony in the family. Each session will include the following:

- a) Verses from the Holy Qur'an
- b) Discussion on questions on the topic
- c) Lecture on the Islamic aspect of the topic
- d) Exercises for further development of the topic

Course Objectives

- 1) To increase awareness of the necessary ingredients for an effective, functional family.
- 2) To help students foster harmonious relationships with different members in the family, and assist them in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities.
- 3) To prevent and diminish problems in the family by increasing understanding of how problems can be avoided and /or solved before they escalate.

Course Outline

Session One: Goals of establishing a family. The Purpose of Marriage and Raising children. Awareness of the sanctity and importance of the family structure.

Session Two: Love and affection in the family. Ways of demonstrating love. Discipline and Love.

Session Three: Role of communication. Effect of good communication on relationships. Obstacles to communication.

Session Four: Anger and resentment in the family. Dealing with negative feelings. Harmful effects of repressed anger and hatred within the family.

Session Five: Respect in the family. Ways of showing respect. Disrespect and its effect on relationships.

Session Six: Emotional maturity. Importance of appreciation, understanding and forgiveness. Growth and maturity in family relationships.

Course Assignment

Students will be divided into two groups. Each group will prepare a script for a play which compares two families. The aim of the assignment is to show that students are aware of the impact of positive and negative attributes on the harmony of the family structure. Through the play the students will demonstrate their understanding of what is necessary for establishing a functional family.

The following points are meant as guidelines for the assignment.

- 1) The play should have a message to convey to the audience
- 2) Qur'anic verses and/or hadith can be used to emphasize the message of the play.
- 3) Humor should be included, but caution should be taken not to make the play silly or too humorous.
- 4) Duration of the play should not exceed more than 20 minutes.
- 5) Props and costumes can be used to increase interest.

Students will spend one class session in preparing the script, and rehearsing if time permits. Additional time may be provided over the duration of the course. The plays will be performed on the last day of classes, Thursday Aug. 21st during class time.