



# Academy for Learning Islam

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**Term:** Winter 2023

**Course Number:** ALI 655

**Location:** Nursery, Jaffari Community Centre, 9000 Bathurst street, Thornhill ON

**Instructor:** Sr. Tahera Kassamali

**Instructor email:** alioutreach@gmail.com

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**Course Title:** Esoteric Foundations of the Shia Faith

**Duration:** Three weeks, Feb 7, 14 and 28, 2023.

**Timings:** Tuesday evenings, 8-9 pm.

**Textbook:** *Shiite Islam: Orthodoxy or Heterodoxy?* by Luis Alberto Vittor

(<https://www.al-islam.org/shiite-islam-orthodoxy-or-heterodoxy-luis-alberto-vittor>)

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**Course Description** This course will look at the spiritual depths of Shia Islam and discuss the inner meanings of some of the essential elements of Shi'ite faith and practices. Appreciation for the Shia faith and answers to its critics can only be resolved when we look at its spiritual realms. The sessions will help students understand more of these realms.

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## Course Objectives

- Understand the spiritual foundation of Shi'ism.
  - Learn about the importance of Imamah and Wilayah.
  - Explore the inner depths of meaning in Shia practices.
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## Course Topics:

Week 1 – Esoteric dimensions of the Shia Faith

Week 2 – Imamah and Wilayah as metaphysical realities

Week 3 – Spirituality within a Shi'ite lifestyle

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## Further Readings

*Spirituality in Shi'i Islam: An Overview* by Hajj Muhammad Legenhausen

<https://www.al-islam.org/spirituality-shii-islam-overview-muhammad-legenhausen/spirituality-shii-islam-overview>

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