

Islamic Summer Intensive Course—GTA 2018

Course Descriptions- Sisters

Understanding Imam Zamān through Ziyārah of Āl-i Yāsīn

Instructor: Arifa Hudda

Duration: 5 Sessions

Introduction: It is mentioned that one of the most important visitation rites (ziyārah) which is directed towards Imam al-Ḥujjah is the famous Ziyārah of Āl-i Yāsīn. According to Shaykh ʿAbbās al-Qummī, it is actually a ḥadīth al-Qudsī—i.e., a direct saying from Allah. As a beautiful way to address Allah and His final representative, we also get a better picture on who our awaited saviour is.

This series of talks will dissect Ziyārah of Āl-i Yāsīn and explain some of the qualities, characteristics and traits of our awaited Imam, al-Hujjah, peace be upon him, and guide us to how Allah lauds, praises, and accolades upon him. It will also give us a better appreciation for our role in knowing and recognizing the Imam of our time.

A Comparative Study of Haḍrat Maryam (s) in the Qurʾān and the Bible

Instructor: Batool Arastu

Duration: 8 Sessions

Introduction: Haḍrah Maryam (s) is an important figure in Islam and Christianity. As a role model, there are many lessons that can be taken from her life. Even the Holy Qurʾān refers to her as a mentor for the believers. Today we need mentors whom we can follow to pave the way for the advent of the Qāʾim.

The story has been divided into a number of segments which have been further divided into different parts. Each segment contains related verses describing that part of the story and a detailed discussion of each verse. After every part of the story, when applicable, there is a brief comparison of what the Bible says regarding that part of the story.

Hijab and Meaning

Instructor: Zainab Mirza

Duration: 3 Sessions

Introduction: Hijab is a reality that has been present in all times and in all civilizations in some form or another. What could be the reasons for this? Where does Hijab come from? Why do we have to observe it? Who is it for? What does it say about our identity and who we identify *with*? Is Hijab just a physical thing, or does it involve other aspects of our being? What does Hijab do for our spirituality and inner self? How does it relate to the innate reality of human souls and their *fiṭrah*? The course will address the above questions and other queries related to Hijab. It will then turn to the saintly paragons of purity and divine sources of authority—the Maʿṣūmīn (ʿa)—to seek practical guidance from them on the issue of Hijab.

Doctrines for Living Islam

Instructor: Zainab Mirza

Duration: 5 Sessions

Introduction: Doctrines are truths taught on the basis of religious authority that help human beings understand reality and the Supreme Reality, God the most high. It is only when we understand, to some degree and in some sense, the ultimate Truth that we can act accordingly to His Will. The study will cover the traditional topics of *tawḥīd*, *ʿadl*, *nubuwwah*, *imāmah*, and *maʿād*, but in a novel way. The sessions will attempt to indicate that these ideas are not just mental concepts unrelated to the practical level but rather, the basis of living life in the most fulfilling sense.

Self-Building from Self-Knowledge

Instructor: Farva Raza

Duration: 8 Sessions

Introduction: Allah (swt) created man to be the best of creations—his khalīfah or viceregent on earth—giving man the ability to think and freedom to choose.

With the struggle of daily survival occupying most of our time, our true inner self is forgotten. In this course we will look at ways to work on our spiritual self, some of the diseases that affect our soul, and how to combat them.

Wirdan Wāḥidan: Giving Direction to Life's Varying Dimensions

Instructor: Mariam Rashid

Duration: 4 Sessions

Introduction: Tawḥīd is the cornerstones of Islamic faith. Not only does it imply a theoretical and mental acknowledgement of the unicity of God, but it also implies a practical and devotional effort in directing and harmonizing the varying dimensions of our lives towards a single goal. This idea is echoed in the renowned supplication of Kumayl, where we ask the Almighty to infuse our time with His remembrance, and to be in His constant service, so that all of our actions are transformed into one continuous devotion, a 'wirdan wāḥidan'. In the dizzying array of our day-to-day activities, how can one try to be in a state of perpetual service to God? In this course, we will speak about how the physical, social, psychological and spiritual dimensions of the human being may be directed towards this noble endeavour, making reference to the sayings and writings of those who have become the beacons of this endeavour – the Maʿsumīn (ʿa).

The Qurʾān and Ethics: Examining the life of Prophet Yūsuf

Instructor: Zehra Baqri

Duration: 5 Sessions

Introduction: According to the scripture itself, the Holy Qurʾān is a book of guidance. It was meant to act as a constant source of life and ethics for all of mankind. Through discussions on the various Prophets and Messengers, the Holy Qurʾān displays to us the essence of faith and the importance of morality. In this course, we will examine the beautiful story of Prophet Yūsuf (ʿa) in an attempt to extract lessons and a blueprint on how to live our life today. The uniqueness of this chapter in the Holy Qurʾān is that it is related in a continuous chain of narration from beginning to end which makes the study of it ever more powerful and engaging.