

Islamic Summer Intensive Course 2019

Sisters' Component: Course Descriptions

Gender in the Holy Scriptures: A Comparative Study of the Prominent Women in the Qur'an and the Bible.

Instructor: Batool Arastu

Duration: 10 Sessions

Introduction: It is commonly perceived that only male characters have been mentioned in the Qur'an. The truth is that both genders—men and women—appear in the verses. In fact, not only has the Qur'an presented female individuals but some of them have been praised and raised to the level of role models for all believers.

In this study, we shall examine two female characters: the mother of Musa (s.a.) and the Queen of Sheba (s.a.). We shall study their role in the Qur'an as well as in the Bible. Our goal in this course will be to study each verse mentioned in regards to them and to derive lessons that would be applicable for us today.

Feminism and Islam's View on Gender

Instructor: Fariba Alasvand

Duration: 8 Sessions

Introduction: Gender Studies, today, is an academic interdisciplinary department that deals with various topics related to femininity, masculinity, paternity, family issues, policy and gender, economy and gender, and the like. The advent of feminism has both complicated and expanded the scope of women studies. The feminist perspectives has spread to and influences every part of the world and as a result may absorb and alter correct Islamic teachings about family, marriage, parenting, etc. In this course, we will look at the feminist perspective on important issues and, thereafter, we will look at the Islamic perspective on gender and theological gender studies.

As Seen by the Divine Legislator: A Survey of Gender Specific and Non-specific Aḥkām in Shī'ī Fiqh

Instructor: M. Mahdi Kassamali

Duration: 2 Sessions

Introduction: This course will attempt to give participants an overview of how men and women have been treated in the books of Shī'ī Fiqh. The course will start with looking at how the two genders are treated similarly across the various chapters of Fiqh dealing with worship, economics and social matters. This will be followed by a more detailed look at some of the differences, along with a glimpse at the ijtihādī sources for these differences and the philosophy behind them. Opinions of contemporary marāji' will be highlighted.

Pink Power: the History of Feminism and the Gender Politics Movement

Instructor: Asad Jafri

Duration: 2 Sessions

Introduction: Feminism is a movement that is deep-rooted in Western history dating back to the 18th century. Throughout the years, this movement has changed and fluctuated in terms of its focus and purpose. We will look at the various “waves” of feminism throughout history and attempt to dissect the base of this movement. The class will culminate with a discussion on Islam’s viewpoint on this movement.

Tawhīd & Divine Duality: The Formation of the Immaterial-Material Gendered Soul

Instructor: Rizwan Rashid

Duration: 2 Sessions

Introduction: In striving to understand the origination, nature, and subsistence of the human soul, philosophers have elaborated detailed theories based on intellectual principles, cosmological correspondences, and scriptural teachings. In this course, we will examine Mulla Sadra’s views on the material origination and spiritual subsistence of the soul as well as the foundations on which this view is based. Using this Sadrian model, we will attempt to locate the source of gender, its materiality and/or immateriality, and the way in which it affects and is affected by the human soul. Finally, we will end with a glimpse of the ʿIrfānī outlook with regards to masculinity and femininity, particularly as it pertains to the human being’s return to God.

Gender Development in Children: Educating and Raising Techniques in Children

Instructor: Ali Karamali

Duration: 3 Sessions

Introduction: In this course we will explore the development of gender identity in children as part of the overall development of a healthy child. We will examine the multiple factors that contribute to this healthy development including family dynamics, social influences, the environment and others.

The discussion will be framed on Islamic sources drawing from various sciences including psychology and sociology. We will explore various practical techniques in which parents, teachers and mentors can positively affect the development of children through prevention, orientation, and intervention.

The course will draw from real life examples and case studies and is intended for a mature audience.

Cultural Oppression and the LGBTQ Movement

Instructor: Salim Yusufali

Duration: 2 Sessions

In these sessions, we will insha'Allah explore the Islamic perspective on cultural forms of oppression and examine the LGBTQ's effect on culture from an Islamic lens of cultural oppression.

Analysis of Gender Identity as it Correlates to Islamic Community Building

Instructor: Husayn el-Mekki

Duration: 3 Sessions

Introduction: This course aims to build on previously discussed Community Building ideals. Many matters are intertwined and the issues that relate to gender are an integral part of community building. We will refresh some of the proper concepts in establishing a true Islamic community and their prerequisites. There are layers within community building for Muslim minorities residing in non-Muslim lands and a correct comprehension of gender relevant matters is critical in today's society. We will examine a variety of areas where gender roles and identity impacts lives, such as family, marriage, education, scholarship, leadership, etc. Distinctions will be made in areas where Islam differs with prevalent western thought. We will try to look at divine wisdom from an array of lenses so as to better comprehend when there are differences and to help make the spiritual and philosophical components more tangible. In this course please be prepared to think critically, openly, and 'come with an empty cup'.
