



INTRODUCTION TO USUL AL-FIQH (FIQH METHODOLOGY)

Objectives & Terminology


COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To appreciate the complexity of Fiqh
 - To understand which aspects of Fiqh are flexible and which are rigid
 - To appreciate the ulema and the tough job they have in making relevant fatwas for their communities
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COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To appreciate the depth and miraculous nature of Islamic Law
 - To become more tolerant of different opinions
 - To understand how these opinions are formed and why difference of opinion is natural and to be expected
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FIQH TERMINOLOGY

- **Shariah** – the Revealed explicit law that all Muslims agree upon and cannot be changed
 - **Fiqh** – Human understanding and interpretation of the Shariah, subject to differences of opinions and change
 - **Usul al-Fiqh** – Principles/Methodology/Foundations of Fiqh, the core principles or steps used for formulating Fiqh opinions
 - **Madhhab** – a school of thought, or an approach to Fiqh utilizing specific usul laid down by the founder of the madhhab
 - **Ijma** – Consensus of the scholars
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FIQH TERMINOLOGY

- **Qiyas** – Deductive Reasoning based on principles extracted from the Shariah texts
 - **Urf** – Local culture
 - **Ijtihad** – A scholar's effort to figure out the correct ruling on an issue
 - **Qawa'id al-Fiqhiyya** – Maxims of Fiqh, short generalized laws utilized in Qiyas and Ijtihad
 - **Maqasid al-Shariah** – Goals and objectives of Islamic Law
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FIQH TERMINOLOGY

- **Fard/Wajib** – Obligatory. To do it is rewarding, to leave it out is a sin.
 - **Mustahab/Sunnah** – Recommended. To do it is rewarding, to leave it out is not a sin.
 - **Halal/Mubah** – Permitted. To do it is neither rewarding nor a sin. (Mubah is the original status of anything)
 - **Makruh** – Disliked. To do it is not a sin, but to avoid it is rewarding.
 - **Haram** – Prohibited. To do it is a sin, and to avoid it is rewarding.
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HANAFI FIQH TERMS

- **Fard** – Obligatory. Established through strong evidence.
 - **Wajib**– Obligatory. Established through speculative evidence.
 - **Makruh Tahrimi** – Disliked to the level of prohibition. Established through speculative evidence.
 - **Haram** – Prohibited. Established through strong evidence.
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ALLAH INTENDS EASE FOR US

“Allah intends ease for you. He does not intend difficulty for you.” (2:185)


“And He did not place any *g`q`i* for you in the religion.” (22:78)

“Allah does not burden a soul beyond its capability.” (2:286)

GO EASY ON PEOPLE

“Make things easy for the people. Do not make things difficult for the people.” (Bukhari)

“The religion is ease. Whoever makes the religion too hard on himself will be overwhelmed.” (Bukhari)

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IBN QAYYIM'S DESCRIPTION OF THE SHARIAH

“Verily, the Sharia is founded upon wisdom and welfare for the servants in this life and the afterlife. In its entirety it is justice, mercy, benefit, and wisdom. Every matter which abandons justice for tyranny, mercy for cruelty, benefit for corruption, and wisdom for foolishness is not a part of the Sharia even if it was introduced therein by an interpretation.”

(I'lām al-Muwaqqi'īn 3/11)