

“And the garment of Godwariness— that is best.

The Qur’an, 7:26

Indeed, you have in the Messenger of God a beautiful example for those who hope for God and the Last Day, and remember God much.

The Qur’an, 33:21

Islamic Ethics

The Qur’anic Vision and Proposal for a Good Life

REL 177 (Fall 2023)

MW 2:30-3:45 pm (WALL 243)

WHAT IS IT ABOUT? (Previously Course Description)

This course is an overview of the Qur’anic vision, proposal and prescriptions for a good human individual and communal life. We will explore Qur’anic view of the universe and humanity’s place within it, and how the Qur’an shapes Muslim life. As with most of my courses, a good reading of assigned texts will be an absolute must. And so will be thinking about and through the ideas they put forth. Every intellectual practice in our study is in service of thinking.

THE INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY

Recommended Reading

If you feel inspired to explore further a topic discussed in a certain week, you are welcome to speak to the instructor and ask for a recommended reading. Do clarify what aspect in particular is of interest to you.

Meeting with the Instructor

Prof. Syed Rizwan Zamir

Office: Eumenean Hall 104; **Phone:** (704) 894 2950]

Email: rizamir@davidson.edu (On the weekends I tend to keep very low)

You can meet with SRZ:

1. Right after the class meeting (just walk up to me); or
2. In his office hours: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A4AA8AD2DA31-office> (signup by noon in the morning of your intended visit); or

The Intellectual Community inside and outside the class

We will speak about this in the class on the first day.

INTELLECTUAL PRACTICES (Previously Course Requirements/Assignments)

Midterm REVIEW	25%
Final Cumulative REVIEW	35%
TEACH-Present a Quranic Figure [10% Teach; 15%Research Quality]	25%
Intellectual Contributions, Quality of Study & Presence	15%

TEXT-GUIDES

The Bible and the Qur'an: Biblical Figures in the Islamic Tradition Paperback – February 8, 2018
by [John Kaltner](#) (Author), [Younus Mirza](#) (Author)

From <https://www.amazon.com/Bible-Quran-Biblical-Figures-Tradition/dp/056766600X/ref=sr_1_3?crid=AGZFXV7HG2l&keywords=Women+in+the+Qur%27an%2C+Traditions%2C+and+Interpretation&qid=1679121532&s=books&prefix=women+in+the+qur%27an%2C+traditions%2C+and+interpretation%2Cstripbooks%2C165&sr=1-3>

Women in the Qur'an, Traditions, and Interpretation Reprint Edition
by [Barbara Freyer Stowasser](#) (Author)

From <https://www.amazon.com/Traditions-Interpretation-Barbara-Freyer-Stowasser/dp/0195111486/ref=sr_1_6?dchild=1&keywords=Women+and+Gender+in+the+Qur%27an&qid=1615227961&sr=8-6>

The Qur'an: Basic Teachings Paperback – Import, December 1, 2015
by [T. B. Irving](#) (Compiler), [Khurshid Ahmad](#) (Compiler), [M. Manazir Ahsan](#) (Compiler)

https://www.amazon.com/Quran-Teachings-T-B-Irving/dp/0860372227/ref=sr_1_1?crid=QLJWB86AQPSZ&keywords=The+Qur%27an%3A+Basic+Teachings&qid=1679645111&sprefix=the+qur%27an+basic+teachings%2Caps%2C96&sr=8-1

The Qur'anic Narrative: The Journey of Life as Told in the Qur'an First Edition
by [Louay M. Safi](#) (Author)

From <https://www.amazon.com/Quranic-Narrative-Journey-Life-Quran/dp/0313361991/ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1679120923&sr=1-1>

The Qur'anic Prescription: Unlocking the Secrets to Optimal Health Paperback – August 16, 2022
by [Madiha M. Saeed MD](#) (Author)

From <https://www.amazon.com/Quranic-Prescription-Unlocking-Secrets-Optimal/dp/1847741614/ref=sr_1_8?crid=3MP99AI9NP9LW&keywords=quranic+prophets&qid=1679117830&s=books&prefix=quranic+prophets%2Cstripbooks%2C99&sr=1-8>

The Qur'an (Oxford World's Classics) Reissue Edition
by [M. A. S. Abdel Haleem](#) (Translator)

From <https://www.amazon.com/Quran-Oxford-Worlds-Classics/dp/0199535957/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1692808285&sr=8-1>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

INSTRUCTOR'S:

It is expected that by the end of the class, the participants will have:

1. Adequate familiarity with Qur'anic ethics and Islamic ethical life and thought relates to the Qur'an;
2. Explored through research a major Qur'anic figure;
3. Thought about what we mean by "Islam" and "ethics" and their significance;
4. Learned the diversity and spectrum of ethical modes and reasoning within Islam and how these modes relate to one another;
5. Engaged in various intellectual practices, for example: careful reading and interpretation of texts;

NOTE: The most significant goal of this class is to make learning *joyful, relevant and meaningful* for all involved. Making the class more relevant to you personally is something that will require your engagement and deep interest. Feel free to talk to the instructor about ways in which you (or/and the instructor) could contribute in achieving these goals, personally and as a class.

YOURS?

Disabilities: A student who requires accommodation for a documented disability of any type should see the instructor immediately to discuss modifications to course requirements. "Davidson College values the diversity of its community and is an equal access institution that admits otherwise qualified applicants without regard to disability. The college seeks to accommodate requests for accommodations related to disability that are determined to be reasonable and do not compromise the integrity of a program or curriculum. To make such a request or to begin a conversation about a possible request, please contact Beth Bleil, Director of Academic Access and Disability Resources, in the Center for Teaching and Learning by visiting her office in the E.H. Little Library, by emailing her at bebleil@davidson.edu, or by

calling 704-894-2129. It is best to submit accommodation requests within the drop/add period; however, requests can be made at any time in the semester. Please keep in mind that accommodations are not retroactive.”

Honor and Conscience: The College expects students to fully abide by the Honor Code. The instructor wonders about our conscience and the convergence/divergence between the two.