



INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM

Open to All - No previous knowledge required

Aims & Objectives of the Course:

Islam is the religion of rationality, wisdom and truth. The Course Introduction to Islam is designed for people of all religious persuasions. The objective of the course is to introduce Islam, Islamic beliefs, traditions, cultures and some of the latest challenges faced in the Muslim world.

Students who complete the three modules in the course will be granted a certificate.

Course Fees:

The Course consists of three modules and each module will cost £20. Those wishing to complete all three modules will be charged £50.

Please call or email to register:

Email: shortcourses@islamic-college.ac.uk

Tel: 0208 451 9993



Topics for Each Module:

Islamic Belief:

- * **Tawhid:** Testifying to the oneness of God
- * **Nubwwa and Imama**
- * **Ma'ad:** The return back to God
- * **The nature of the Qur'an**
- * **Cultivation of the 'aql (intellect); Purification of the nafs (soul)**

Muslim Contemporary Issues:

- * **Islam and democracy:** Democratic practice and its compliance with Islam
- * **Some of the family law issues:** Inheritance and financial rights of woman
- * **The woman social and political position:** In Islam in general, and family in particular.
- * **Islam, Muslims and their relations with other faiths.**
- * **Islamic principles and Muslims' cultures:** The differences between Islamic principles and Muslims' cultures that create serious misconceptions on Islam and its principles.

Muslim Cultures and Civilisation:

- * **The Arabs, Prophet Muhammad and Islam.** A look at the historical context in which Islam emerged.
- * **The Community of Medina and the beginning of an identity.** Learning about the early Islamic Community
- * **The Spread of Islam.** Overview of the Islamic expansions following the death of Prophet Muhammad.
- * **Islamic Civilisation and its contribution to the World.**
- * **Muslims in the West.** Examining the Islamic presence in western countries.





Dr Rebecca Masterton:

Dr Rebecca Masterton graduated with a BA in Japanese Language and Literature, an MA in Comparative East Asian and African Literature and a PhD in Islamic literature of West Africa, in which she critiqued the effects of secularism and colonialism upon traditional Islamic teachings on the self, from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Dr Masterton has been teaching for nearly fifteen years through different media, including one-to-one tuition; short courses at Birkbeck College, University of London; BA and MA programmes at the Islamic College in London, both in-house and on-line; and on-line classes for the Islamic Institute for Postgraduate Studies (Damascus and Birmingham). She has also lectured widely at conferences both in Europe and the United States. Currently she is developing a series of online short courses on Islam and the humanities at Online Shi'a Studies

Module Summary - Islamic Beliefs:

Islam is a way of life centred upon the primary principle of the oneness of God, out of which everything comes into being, and to which everything returns after it has disintegrated and died. The realisation of this oneness and its implications in every sphere of existence is the aim that the Muslim strives to attain. The 'roots' of Islamic belief are divided into three: testifying to the oneness of God; belief in prophet hood and belief in the afterlife. This course examines these three principles, before moving on to reflect on the nature of the Qur'ān and how it may be understood and read. Linked to the realisation of tawhīd (Oneness of God) is the process of the purification of the soul. Methods for this constitute the spiritual tradition of Islam and they will be looked at in brief. Finally, a selection of ethical instructions in relation to society and politics will be discussed in the light of one of Islam's key principles: that of justice.



Dr Nehad Khanfar:

PhD Degree in Comparative Contract Law (mainly Islamic and English contracts). Acquired robust experience in teaching while employed by the An-Najah University (Palestine) and currently by the Islamic College (London) as a lecturer in Islamic law (commercial law, finance and economics, family law), Islamic and Arab Judicial System, Research Methodology and Academic Writing, Legal translation (English/ Arabic). Also supervising research students (papers and dissertations) on BA/ MA levels. Very strong experience in classical Arabic texts and jurisprudence. Strong experience in teaching undergraduate and postgraduate courses of Islamic economics, Islamic commercial and financial law. Program leader of MA Islamic law.

Module Summary - Muslim Contemporary Issues:

Contemporary Issues in the Muslim World. It will be covering some of hot topics that are featured in the media that pertain to Islam/Muslims. Some issues related to Islam and democracy and democratic practice and its compliance with Islam. Some of the family law issues including the woman social and political position in Islam. Islam, Muslims and their relations with other faiths. Some issues on the differences between Islamic principles and Muslims' cultures that create serious misconceptions on Islam and its principles.



Amir De Martino:

Amir De Martino is an Italian-born, Muslim convert. He holds a Master in Islamic Studies from the Islamic College. He has a double-subject BA in Persian Language and Studies of Religion from SOAS University. He was also trained in Islamic classical studies at the London Imam Hussein Hawzah (prior to its merger with the Islamic College). In 2010 he obtained a PGCE in Social Research Methods from the department of Education of Roehampton University as preparation for doctoral studies. He is a lecturer in Islamic History and programme leader of the BA Islamic Studies at The Islamic College.

Module Summary - Muslim Cultures and Civilisation:

There are currently more than a billion Muslims in the world that speak hundreds of languages and dialects. They are the majority population in a region spanning from Morocco to Indonesia. At the height of Islamic Civilisation they drew on a number of existing traditions, including the Greek, the Persian and the Indian, but they made their own distinctive and original contributions to these fields, and these were, in turn, passed on to Europe.

The purpose of this course is to allow students to study systematically and coherently the global civilisation of Islam – The starting point will be pre-Islamic Arabia, the place in which Prophet Muhammad, the founder of the religion of Islam was born. This will be followed by an introduction to his mission and the subsequent expansion of Islam out of Arabia, resulting in the creation of a distinct civilisation, which at one point had the majority of the world's most sophisticated philosophers, mathematicians, medical practitioners, astronomers, and architects.

The course will focus on the political, social and religious institutions that shaped Islamic civilisation as well as on the intellectual and scholarly traditions which characterised the Muslim world.





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