

## Course Syllabus

# Academic English for Islamic Studies

[Theory & Method]

Winter 2025



### Part 1: Course Information

- Instructor: **Mohammad Mahdi Jafari**
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### Course Description

- This Academic English language course is specifically designed for students and researchers in the field of Islamic Studies who possess an upper-intermediate level of English proficiency. The primary objectives of the course are to enhance reading comprehension of academic texts and improve listening skills within the context of Islamic studies.

### Prerequisite/Corequisites

- Upper-intermediate English proficiency (equivalent to B1 on the CEFR scale)
- Familiarity with basic concepts in Islamic studies

### Course Materials:

1. Hughes, A. (2003). *Presenting the Past: The Genre of Commentary in Theoretical Perspective. Method & Theory in the Study of Religion*, 15(2), 148–168.
2. Smith, J. Z. (1998). *Religion, Religions, Religious. In M. Taylor (Ed.), Critical Terms for Religious Studies (pp. 269–284). The University of Chicago Press.*
3. Olsson, S., & Stenberg, L. (2022). Chapter 4. *Territory at Stake! In Defence of 'Religion' and 'Islam.'* In L. Stenberg (Ed.), *What is Islamic Studies?: European and North American Approaches to a Contested Field (pp. 82–105). Edinburgh University*

## Part 2: Student Learning Outcomes & Objectives

### Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

By completing this Academic English for Islamic Studies course, students will:

- **Enhance Reading Proficiency:** Develop advanced skills to comprehend complex academic texts, identify main ideas, supporting details, themes, and structure.
- **Improve Listening Skills:** Extract key information from lectures, interviews, and discussions related to Islamic studies.
- **Employ Effective Strategies:** Use prediction, previewing, skimming, and scanning techniques for efficient content understanding and information retrieval.
- **Develop Critical Thinking:** Make logical inferences and draw conclusions from implicit academic content.
- **Understand Time Signals:** Identify and interpret temporal markers to grasp the chronological flow in academic discourse.



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## Part 3: Topic Outline/Schedule

Weeks	Topic	Readings	Grammar	Skills
1-3	<b>Sacred text and interpretation</b> Aaron Hughes	Presenting the Past: The Genre of Commentary in Theoretical Perspective	Sentence and clause structure	Predicting and preview, skimming
4-6	<b>On the concept of "Religion"</b> Jonathan Z. Smith	Religion, Religions, Religious	review tenses, reduction, inversion, punctuation (compound and complex)	text structure, main idea and support, Inference, time signals
7-9	<b>On the concept of "Islam"</b> Suzanne Olsson	Territory at Stake! In Defence of 'Religion' and 'Islam'	syntax (esp, adv and adj formation)	Digital reading and note taking