

## Course Syllabus

# Academic English for Islamic Studies

[Historical Study of the Qur'an]

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:

- Neuwirth, A. (2003). *Qur'an and History – a Disputed Relationship. Some Reflections on Qur'anic History and History in the Qur'an*. *Journal of Qur'anic Studies*, 5(1), 1–18
- Donner, F. M. (2007). *The Qur'an in recent scholarship: Challenges and desiderata*. In *The Qur'an in its historical context* (pp. 45–66). Routledge.
- Sinai, N. (2020). *Historical Criticism and Recent Trends in Western Scholarship on the Quran: Some Hermeneutic Reflections*. ١٤٦-١٣٦, ٣٨, مجلة كلية الشريعة و الدراسات الإسلامية.

## 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	Writer	Readings	Grammar	Skills
1-3	<b>Angelika Neuwirth</b>	Qur'an and History – a Disputed Relationship. Some Reflections on Qur'anic History and History in the Qur'an	Sentence and clause structure	Predicting and preview, skimming
4-6	<b>Fred M. Donner</b>	The Qur'an in recent scholarship: Challenges and desiderata	review tenses, reduction, inversion, punctuation (compound and complex)	text structure, main idea and support, Inference, time signals
7-9	<b>Nicolai Sinai</b>	Historical Criticism and Recent Trends in Western Scholarship on the Quran: Some Hermeneutic Reflections	syntax (esp. adv and adj formation)	Digital reading and note taking