

Olive Tree Education
Muslim Student Association, Vanderbilt University
Office of Religious Life, Vanderbilt University

Islam: Faith and Moral Code

Instructor: Professor Awadh A. Bin hazim
Time: Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

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Program Description: The faith of Islam is centered on two important paradigms; matters of belief (eeman) and moral code (akhlaaq). These paradigms form the matrix of Islam and shape the world view of Muslims across the globe. The course will examine the foundations of the Islamic creed relative to the morals of a Muslim and how these two teachings are intertwined to fulfill what is obligatory upon the believer. The subject matter is designed to educate anyone interested in Islam and maybe studied without prior knowledge of the topic. Although the course is titled "Introduction to Islam" – it does more than introduce one to the faith. It brings to the student's awareness - intricacies about the faith and connects important elements of the belief system of Islam to its moral practices.

Teaching Methods: PowerPoint lectures, discussions, guest speaker, other audiovisual materials. All presentations will be at our website www.olivetreeeducation.org by Friday night. Please print your copy for use in the class.

Textbook: Various texts can be referenced.

Program Outline

BELIEFS (Eeman/aqeedah)

Islam, eeman and Aqeedah (beliefs)

Aqeedah – definition, meaning and terminology

Relation of Aqeedah to Eeman (Beliefs) and Moral Code

Belief in Allah

The Angels

The world of devils

The messengers and the scriptures

Death, dying and after death

The day of resurrection

Paradise and Hell

Divine will and predestination

MORAL AND ETHICAL CODE OF ISLAM (Akhlaaq)

Relationships

Moral and manners

The Muslim and his/her Lord

Rights of Parents

Rights of Children

Rights of Relatives

Rights of Neighbors

References:

1. Islamic Creed Series – Ummar Al-Ashqar
 - a. Belief in Allah
 - b. The world of the noble angels
 - c. The messengers and the messages
 - d. The world of jinn and devils
 - e. The minor resurrection
 - f. The day of resurrection
 - g. Paradise and hell
 - h. Divine will and predestination
2. Noble Quran - Muhsin Khan
3. The Ideal Muslim – Muhammad Ali Al Hashimi
4. Explanation of the three fundamentals principles of Islam – Muhammad ibn Saalih Al-Uthaymeen
5. Book of Faith (Kitab Al-Iman) – Ibn Taymiyyah
6. Book of Muslim morals and manners – Imam Al Bukhari
7. Family structure in Islam – Hammudah Abdalati
8. The Sealed Nectar; the Biography of the Prophet – Safiurahman Mubarakpuri
9. Islam, the Natural way – AbdulWahid Hamid
10. Muslim's Character - Muhammad Al-Ghazali