



THE ISLAMIC COMMUNITY  
IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA



UNIVERSITY  
OF SARAJEVO



FACULTY OF ISLAMIC STUDIES  
IN SARAJEVO



THE LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAM

# INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF ISLAM

# 2024

**PROSPECTUS**





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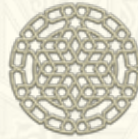
# 2024

PROSPECTUS

Sarajevo, April 2024

# INTRODUCTION

The Lifelong Learning Program “Introduction to the Study of Islam” is 72-hour special program for those who want to know more about Islam in general and Islam and Islamic culture in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Classes are held via E-learning platform of the Faculty. Lecturers are mainly from the Faculty of Islamic Studies. The program is intended for mature English speaking audience who meet the admission requirements. It is designed to provide introductory insight into the knowledge of doctrine, law, history and culture of Islam with special focus on Islam in the Balkans and Bosnia and Herzegovina. This program has been implemented eleven times so far. The Faculty of Islamic Studies will award certificate to participants who successfully complete the program requirements.



# THE FACULTY OF ISLAMIC STUDIES

The Faculty of Islamic Studies was established in 1977 by the Islamic Community in Bosnia-Herzegovina. However, the Faculty builds upon much longer tradition of higher Islamic learning in Sarajevo which started in 1537 with the establishment of Gazi Husraw-bey Madrasa. The Faculty is also an heir to the School for Shari'ah judges (est. 1887), later the Higher School of Islamic Theology and Shari'ah, whose neo-Moorish styled building is contemporary home to it. In 2013 the Faculty became a member of the University of Sarajevo.

The study is organized in three cycles. The first cycle (BA) has three programs: Islamic theology, Islamic religious instruction and religious pedagogy, and a degree program for imams, khātibs and mu'allims. The second cycle (MA) is a unique study program by which the title MA in Islamic studies is acquired, and the third cycle (PhD leading to the degree PhD in Islamic studies. So far 1438 male and female students have graduated from the Faculty including 194 at MA and 66 at Ph.D. levels. At present the Faculty employs 39 teaching staff.

# PROGRAM STRUCTURE

This program involves seven modules grouped into two courses, Introduction to Islam and Islam in Bosnia-Herzegovina, covering the following themes: Survey of Islamic History; Introduction to Islamic Creed; Introduction to Qur'an and Sunnah; Law, state and Islam in Bosnia-Herzegovina; Selected Themes from the History of Muslim Bosnia, Women Position in Islam and Gender Equality Perspective; Introduction to Islamic Philosophy. In principle, classes are held in the late afternoon twice a week (most probably Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 - 8 PM) via E-learning platform of the Faculty. The exact schedule may be fine-tuned with the participants on the first day of program.

## **EVALUATION**

Evaluation for the Program is as follows:

Attendance and Class Participation	40%
Research paper	60%

At least 80% attendance in the online classroom is required. The minimum requirement for successful completion is 60%. Distance learning participants and those who miss more classes than permitted are asked to write one paper for each unattended module.

## **ENTRY REQUIREMENT**

To be admitted into the program a candidate must:

1. Possess a degree of any discipline or be an undergraduate student,
2. Obtain a full GCE 'A' level certificate or its equivalent with at least three years of working experience.

## **PAYMENT OF FEES**

Participants must pay their fees of KM 1,100.00 (one thousand and one hundred KM/BAM) which is equal to the amount of EUR 570,00 or USD 590,00, before the commencement of the course. (Students following the program from distance are required to cover costs of mailing diploma as well).



# APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION

Anyone who is interested in pursuing this diploma program must fill up the Application form and submit it to the Faculty's reception or send it to the Faculty's email ([isi@fin.unsa.ba](mailto:isi@fin.unsa.ba)) not later than 3:00 pm on Friday, April 26, 2024 (Please make sure that your application reaches the Faculty on time). Application form is available at <https://fin.unsa.ba/uvod-u-izucavanje-islama/>. Successful applicants will be notified by Tuesday, April 30, 2024. Payment of fees and registration should be done by Friday, May 3, 2024, in accordance with the instructions attached to this prospectus at <https://fin.unsa.ba/uvod-u-izucavanje-islama/>. The stated amount does not include transaction costs. The program shall commence on Monday, May 6, 2024, 6:00 pm and is expected to end by the end of July 2024. Note that the minimum number of applicants is 20.



## **ADDRESS:**

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For additional information please contact  
Vedad Hurić and Muhamed Fazlović at [isi@fin.unsa.ba](mailto:isi@fin.unsa.ba)

شعبه اقبالیات  
IKBALOVA KATEDRA  
IQBAL CHAIR



SUTAYTA  
AL-MAHAMALI

KIBRAS  
BEN FURQAN





# MODULES

## I SURVEY OF ISLAMIC HISTORY

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(12 hours)

This module is designed to give a brief overview of the fourteen centuries of Islamic civilization history, its origins and main periods, events, personalities, themes, institutions, and processes. Early developments, dissemination, inter-cultural influences, decline, and reform projects are examined. Continuities and ruptures in Islamic history are identified. The module should enable the program participants to follow the development of Islamic doctrines, law and ethics. Topics include:

1. Factors of early success
2. Importance of early Islamic history
3. The Prophet's succession, early conflicts and their legacies
4. Political disintegration and cultural flourishing
5. Civilizational renewal under the three gun powder empires
6. Encounter with Europe/West and the age of colonialism
7. Quest for renewal

### Required Readings

Ansary, Tamim. *Destiny Disrupted: A History of the World Through Islamic Eyes* (New York, Public Affairs, 2010)

### Recommended readings

1. Akbar S. Ahmed. *Islam Today: A Short Introduction to the Muslim World* (London, I. B. Tauris, 1999)
2. Armstrong, Karen. *Islam: A Short History* (London, Phoenix, 2004)
3. Esposito, John L., ed. *Oxford History of Islam* (Oxford University Press, 1999)
4. Lapidus, Ira. *A History of Islamic Societies* (Cambridge University Press, 2002)

## II INTRODUCTION TO ISLAMIC CREED

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(12 hours)

The course will offer a brief survey of contents of six fundamental articles (principles) of Islamic faith with relevant texts and interpretative theological support from Islamic classical and modern literature. All necessary comparisons with Judeo-Christian religions and theologies

will be underlined whenever appropriate.

Topics include:

1. Belief in one God (Religious metaphysics and cosmology)
2. Belief in the Angels (Angelology)
3. Belief in the Holy Books (Revelation)
4. Belief in the Divine Messengers (Prophetology and theological anthropology)
5. Belief in the The Least Day (Eschatology)
6. Belief in the Predestination (Theodicy)

### Readings

1. Sachiko, Murata and Chittick, William. *The Vision of islam* (Suhail Academy, Lahore, 2005)
2. Nasr, Seyyid Hossein. *Ideals and Realities of Islam* (London, 1994)
3. Nasr, Seyyid Hossein. *The Heart of Islam: Enduring Values for Humanity* (San Francisco, 2002)

## III INTRODUCTION TO QUR'AN AND SUNNAH

(12 hours)

The module is designed to provide insight into the basic facts related to the holy book, according to Muslim belief in God's revelation, Noble Qur'an and the Sunnah legacy of Muhammad, God's Messenger. It is intended for people who have no previous studies in Islamic sciences. It explains and offers insight into the structure,

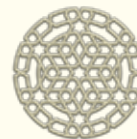
content and most important characteristics of the Qur'an and Sunnah. Through the module, participants will become familiar with the terminology, literature and content of Qur'an and Sunnah, sources of Islam, relevant for understanding Islam as a whole, and will gain a basis for studying wider Islamic sciences. Topics include:

### INTRODUCTION TO QUR'AN (6 hours)

1. Introduction to the Revelation phenomenon
2. Sources of knowledge in the teaching of Islam
3. Historical context of the Revelation of the Qur'an
4. Muhammad and Revelation
5. Chronology of the revelation of the Qur'an
6. Structure of the Qur'an and main themes
7. The miracle of the Qur'an, linguistic, historical and scientific dimensions

### Readings

1. *The Study Quran: A New Translation and Commentary Seyyed Hossein Nasr* (Harperone, 2015)
2. The Holy Qur'an translated – By Abdullah Yusuf Ali
3. The Qur'an An Introduction By Abdullah Saeed (Routledge, 2008)



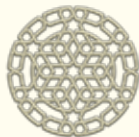


## INTRODUCTION TO SUNNAH (6 hours)

1. What is sunnah?
2. Hadith versus Sunnah
3. Biography of the Prophet (sirah)
4. The relationship between the Qur'an and the Sunnah.
5. The method of verifying the Sunnah
6. Legal and ethical dimensions of the Sunnah
7. Literature on hadith and Sunnah
8. Sunnah and Islamic law

### Readings

1. M. Mustafa Al-'Azami. *Studies in Hadith Methodology and literature* (Islamic book Kuala Lumpur)
2. Muhammad: *A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2011)
3. Hadith: *Muhammad's Legacy in the Medieval and Modern World* (Oneworld Publications, Foundations of Islam series, 2009)
4. The Canonization of al-Bukhārī and Muslim: *The Formation and Function of the Sunnī Ḥadīth Canon* (Brill Publishers, 2007)



## IV LAW, STATE AND ISLAM IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

(11 hours)

This module aims to familiarize students with the concept, sources and objectives of the Islamic normative system (Shariah), and the possibilities of applying Islamic norms within the current normative framework that regulates freedom of religion and the relationship between the state and religious communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Topics include:

1. Introduction to Islamic normative system
2. Law, state and religion in Bosnia-Herzegovina
3. Marriage, divorce and succession: the interaction of state law and Islamic norms
4. Islamic banking and finance: achievements and challenges in Bosnia- Herzegovina

### Readings

1. Nedin Begović and Emir Kovačević. *Law, State and Religion in Bosnia and Herzegovina* (Routledge: London and New York, 2022);
2. Muhammad Hashim Kamali. *An Introduction to Shari'ah* (Ilmiah Publishers: Kuala Lumpur: 2006);
3. Fikret Karčić. „Applying the *Shari'ah* in Modern Societies: Main Developments and Issues“, *Islamic Studies*, Vol. 40, No. 2, Summer 2001, 207-226.

## V SELECTED THEMES FROM THE HISTORY OF MUSLIM BOSNIA

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(12 hours)

The module explores some of the key topics in the history of Bosnia and its Muslims, such as the conversion to Islam during the Ottoman period, the social and cultural changes resulting from Bosnia's incorporation into modern European states (Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Independent State of Croatia, the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Serbs and the communist Yugoslavia) and the interplay of religious and ethnic elements in the formation of Bosnian Muslim identity. Topics include:

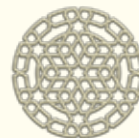
1. Dervishes, guilds and Islamization under the Ottoman rule (1463-1878).
2. The Austro-Hungarian period (1878-1918) and the challenges of Modernity.
3. Bosnian Muslim debates during the interwar period (1918-1941).
4. Being Muslim in Communist Yugoslavia (1945-1990).
5. The origins and development of the Islamic Community of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

### Readings

1. Aščerić-Todd, Ines. *Dervishes and Islam in Bosnia: Sufi Dimensions to the Formation of Bosnian Muslim Society* (Boston: Brill, 2015)
2. Bringa, Tone. *Being Muslim the Bosnian Way: Identity and Community in a Central Bosnian*

*Village* (Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press, 1995)

3. Bougarel, Xavier. *Islam and Nationhood in Bosnia: Surviving Empires* (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2019)
4. Donia, Robert J. *Islam under the Double Eagle: the Muslims of Bosnia and Hercegovina 1878-1914* (Boulder, New York: Columbia University Press, 1981)
5. Greble, Emily. *Muslims and the Making of Modern Europe* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2021)
6. Hoare, Marko Atilla. *The History of Bosnia from the Middle Ages to the Present Day* (London: Saqi Books, 2007).
7. Karčić, Fikret. *The Bosniaks and the Challenges of Modernity: Late Ottoman and Hapsburg Times* (Sarajevo: El-Kalem, 1999)
8. Malcolm, Noel. *Bosnia: a Short History* (London: Pan Books, 2016)
9. Mekić, Sejad. *A Muslim Reformist in Communist Yugoslavia: the Life and Thought of Hussein Đozo* (London: Routledge, 2017)





## VI WOMEN POSITION IN ISLAM AND GENDER EQUALITY PERSPECTIVE

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(6 hours)

The module “Women position in Islam and gender equality perspective” is concerned with the role and general position of woman in the Islamic perspective. It provides a concise overview of the status and role of women in the fundamental sources of Islam (Qur’an and Sunnah) followed by an overview of women scholars of Islam. Contemporary discourse on the position of women in Islam is also included in the module.

1. The status and role of women in the fundamental sources of Islam
2. Women scholars of Islam
3. Humanization of gender relations in Islam / Contemporary discourse on the position of women in Islam

### Readings

1. Ahmad, Leila. *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate* (Yale University Press, 1993)
2. Fathi Osman, Mohamed. *Muslim women: The Family And The Society* (Omar Ibn Al Khat-tab Foundation)
3. Alwani, Zainab, Muslim. Women as Religious Scholars: A Historical Survey, in the book: *Muslima Theology: The Voices of Muslim Women Theologians* (Ed. E. Aslan, M. Hermansen. E. Medeni, Peter Lang AG, 2013)

4. Fatema, Mernissi. *The Veil and the Male Elite: A Feminist Interpretation of Women's Rights in Islam* (Basic Books, 1992)
5. Haifaa A. Jawad. *The Rights of Women in Islam: An Authentic Approach*. (Great Britain: Macmillan Press Ltd, 1998)
6. Nasr, Seyyid Hossein. *The Heart of Islam – Enduring Values of Humanity (The Family Within Islamic Society; Women in the Family and in Society)* p. 183-187 (PerfectBound, UK, USA, 2004)
7. The Oxford Encyclopaedia of Islam and Women (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013)

## VII ISLAMIC PHILOSOPHY

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(6 hours)

The module contains a general introduction to the historical beginnings, origin and development of Islamic philosophy. It deals with the philosophical terminology within Islamic philosophy, its basic lines of thought, main representatives and protagonists in classical period and contemporary contest. The module on the one hand provides insights into the multidimensionality of classical Islamic philosophy and follows its theological (kalam), philosophical (falsafa, hikma) and mystical tendencies, and on the other hand, provides stimulating insights into contemporary currents in Islamic philosophy.

Topics include:

1. Introduction to classical Islamic philosophy
2. Ibn ʿUfayl's Ḥayy ibn Yaqzān and the question of autodidacticism
3. Introduction to contemporary Islamic thought
4. Alija Izetbegović's Islam between East and West

### Readings

1. Majid Fakhry. *A History of Islamic Philosophy* (Columbia University Press, New York, 1983)
2. Abu Bakr Ibn Tufayl. *Ḥayy ibn Yaqzan* (Twayne Publisher, New York, 1972)
3. Fazlur Rahman. *Islam* (University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1979)
4. Alija Izetbegović. *Islam between East and West* (The American Trust Publications, Indianapolis, 1985)

## MODULE LEADERS:

Ahmet Alibašić, Mustafa Cerić, Kenan Musić, Nedim Begović, Asim Zubčević,  
Dina Sijamhodžić-Nadarević and Samedin Kadić

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