



Understanding Islam: Youth in the West

Weekend Islamic School - MCA

Islamic Studies Syllabus – TA section

Class Developed By: Br. Ibrahim Elmoufti

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Materials:

- *Notebook” to record personnel thoughts”*
- *Papers for submissions research due*
- *Supplemental material will be handed during course as guidance*
- *In class Educational Videos/movies/workshops/group debates*
- *Monthly Guest talks on various topics relating to human values, challenges & Islamic modeling in west*

Class Objectives:

To enlighten, educate, clarify, and guide our Muslim youth in their struggle for Islam; both as a practice and belief by getting youth involved in deep thinking and understanding our main purpose in this life and our Islamic responsibilities. We will be exploring topics in accordance to Islam as a religion and set of beliefs that shape our life and affect how we live it.

We will be discussing numerous aspects of human morals, such as anger, jealousy, gossip, happiness, etc. Additionally, we will cover cultural issues we face in our own community and seek advice from the Holy Qur'an and the teachings of our Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

We will also dive into the topic of stereotyping of Islam and Muslims in the media and the challenges or risks faced. Finally, we will discover how to address these aspects by modeling our moral character to Allah (swt) perfect message.

This class will also have a seerah sessions to complement & strengthen the social values elements learned and to add real & valid examples to correlate the moral and ethical values learned with those of the companions and Prophets Era.

Class Format - Grading System:

- *Grades are based on the following:*
 - *Presentations :25%*
 - *Group discussions: 25%*
 - *Debates-group activities : 25%*
 - *Papers: 25%*

Class Requirement:

Come to class with an open mind and be prepared to learn. Be ready to contribute your ideas and your Islamic knowledge. We will be using social media, videos and other tools to illustrate some of the topics been discussed.

- *You must be a high school student to be able to enroll in this class material*
- *Due to the interaction exercises, session cannot exceed 9 registered students total/session.*
- *Please make sure you are in the appropriate age group before you can enroll in this class.*
- *Make sure to submit your due assignments accordingly & promptly.*
- *Plan to Participate – discuss – evaluate and make changes to your environment-Learn-Learn-Learn and preach what you learn.*

Fall 2014 Topics: Tentative Schedule

- **ISLAMIC CHALLENGES IN BEING A MUSLIM IN THE WEST (9/15–10/15)**
(Drugs, tattoos, piercings, alcohol, stealing, cheating, lying, Parents <culture vs religion>, Media (how does it affect us? Western Movies? Bad image of Muslims, Racism, relationships with muhrram at college, etc)
- **CAREER DEVELOPMENT (10/15–11/15)** (ARE YOUR GOALS AND priorities for the sake of Allah? (Make-up artist?!) Why is knowledge important in Islam? What are the types of knowledge according to Allah?
- **DESTINY CHOOSES US OR WE CHOOSE DESTINY? (11/15–12/15)**
(Who will secure your lively hood? How did the prophets live?
- **LEADERSHIP QUALITIES (12/15–1/15/12)** (DOING GOOD AND forbidding evil, guiding your community, giving back, understanding others and the less fortunate, what are the qualities of our prophets?
- **MISCONCEPTIONS IN ISLAM** – does Islam advocate democracy? How about women rights? Patience, respect, generosity, smile, kind - are these qualities part of Islam –Muslim??

are we modest ummah (ummahtun wassatah) or we are extreme in our life dealings ?(1/15-2/15/12)

- **LIFE PLANNING (2/15-3/15/12)**
(Position of authority of Allah, parents, and others in life planning, what is success defined as and do we need to plan for it? How we plan for college life? Where does money, career comes in life planning? Do we need to plan for marriage, when? what should be the criteria ?)
- **OPEN SESSION (3/20 – 5 /01 CURRENT EVENTS/TBD/TENTATIVE)**

Alternative topics:

- **Jesus in Islam? Is all religion the same? Then why there is so much violence?**
- **Youth and Morals: what is expected of us?**
- **What do you want from your mosque or Islamic center?**
- **Workshops: How to make daily changes in your life to be a better Muslim (will print a one day agenda for each student)**
- **Activities: leadership building, case studies: What would you do in so and so situation? (group activity)**
- **Islamic Faith Contract: will provide/design a contract to be signed by each student stipulating the rules and Islamic values they learned and their recognition to uphold them.**
- **Letter to my better Muslim self: each student writes a letter to the person they wish they could be in the future**

Part II

For this class portion, it will be off campus/mca youth lounge and will be practical activities for the previous following semester principals learned and taught. (Sports events/volunteering/community impact etc.)

**Please consult with WIS admin for the holidays schedule for Fall 2014-15*