Module Title: Rational Discussions in 'Ilm al-Uṣūl

Module Code: USLAQL
Course Duration: 34 Weeks
Teaching Method: 4 units/week
Credits: 15

Overview:

This module aims to critically assess the second chapter of Shaykh Muhammad Riḍā Muẓaffar’s Uṣūl al-Fiqh, which focuses on the discourse on al-Mulāzima al-'Aqliyya (Rational Correlation). This module will engage in a detailed study of the role of rationality in orthodox Muslim jurisprudence both as an independent source of law (al-mustaqillāt al- aqliyya), as well as its validity as a subsidiary tool in the derivation of laws (ghayr al-mustaqillāt al- 'aqliyya). It will demonstrate, through practical examples, how jurists employ interpretive devices in deriving and explaining laws from their sources. Moreover, this module will also give a critique of the orthodox Usūlī perception of the role of rationality and draw parallels with classical and contemporary meta-ethical discourses. It also aims to acquaint and familiarise students with the Arabic terminology employed in the Muslim legal discourse by orthodox jurists.

Syllabus:

- Study of the role of reason and other subsidiary interpretive devices in the interpretation and derivation of Islamic law from the second volume of Shaykh Muẓaffar’s Uṣūl al-Fiqh (pp.180-312) on al-Mulāzima al-'Aqliyya (rational correlation).

- A critique of the role of reason as discussed in the orthodox discourse on Islamic legal theory.

- Comparative discussion between the classical Muslim understating of the role of reason and classical and contemporary meta-ethical discourses.

Learning outcomes:

On completion of this module, the successful student will be able to:

- Know and critically discuss the discussion and debates from the second volume of Shaykh Muẓaffar’s Uṣūl al-Fiqh

- Independently critique the orthodox positions related to this topic.

- Have developed their research skills through comparative studies between classical Muslim legal theory, and classical and contemporary meta-ethical discourse.
Assessment Weighting:

- Semester 1:
  - 25% Assignment

- Semester 2:
  - 50% Exam
  - 25% Oral Exam

Learning Materials:

Core Texts: