

## **Course Syllabus**

Subject: AKAIID I, Foundations of the Islamic Faith, the doctrine of the Ahl al-Sunnah.

Study Program: Islamic Studies

Number of ECTS credits: 6

Course Status: Compulsory

Course Code: 109

Number of hours: 2+2

Academic Year: 2026/2027

Semester: II

Teacher: Dr. Bahri Hoxha. Contact: e-mail: bhoxha9@live.com

### **Brief Course Description**

This course encompasses the study of faith in the Revelation of God, as the initial contact with man. The position of the revelation in the face of other cognitive factors in the study of the foundations of the Islamic faith. Detailed information about the majority representatives of the Muslim community throughout history, in the presentation, explanation and argumentation of the Islamic faith. The main schools of Islamic faith, doctrines, scientific methodology, similarities and differences. The contribution of ilm al-kalam to the accurate presentation of faith and the refutation of doubts about Islamic religious principles.

### **Course Objectives**

To acquaint students with basic knowledge in the field of Aqeedah/Islamic Faith, fundamental principles such as belief in divine revelation, the position of the prophets and the adequate synchronization of true religious principles with sound rational principles. To develop skills and abilities to analyze the various data on faith that the study program includes in order to be able to draw conclusions about them. To acquire and advance the sense of criticism in terms of evaluating arguments based on relevant facts in the basic texts of the Islamic faith. To be able to write essays or discuss them, in a clear and convincing style of oral and written expression, these are the characteristics of a person with a liberal academic education. From the lectures from Aqeedah I of the third semester, we expect that after completing this course the student will gain detailed knowledge about the true Islamic beliefs, based on religious and logical arguments. To understand the positions of the main schools of Ahl al-Sunnah and to know their methodology of argumentation. To give the student the opportunity to critically, by stimulating debates, understand the issues on which there were numerous debates, so that he too can

contribute to these views. To understand that the development of the study of faith is in the interest of the moral upliftment of the individual and society, because it cultivates humanism in man and makes him more open and generous in interpersonal relationships.

**Expected learning outcomes:**

After completing the course, the student will be able to:

Describe the way of believing in Islamic principles, as well as distinguish between authenticity and real deformation in matters of faith.

Compare between different views on matters of faith, which he studies during the course.

Discuss issues of Islamic faith based on essential Islamic arguments, being as objective as possible in their presentation.

Defend the positions of different views on the foundations of religion, as conceived by their followers from Ahl al-Sunnah wal Jama'ah.

Present a critical opinion on each of them, presenting the most valid one.

Be able to apply the knowledge gained in social relations in our country.

**Teaching methodology:**

- Lectures
- Interactive analysis and discussions
- Presentations of group and individual projects
- Presentation of audio and video materials.

**Course content:**

First week: Introduction, familiarization with the content of the syllabus. What is the subject of Aqeedah – Ilmul Kalam? Principles and form of study.

Literature: Mr. Naim Ternava, Science of Ilmul Kalam (basic principles), Prishtina 2022. (In the following, we will only mention the pages of this reference).

Second week: Revelation, its meaning, types and forms. The relationship of revelation with the mind.

Third week: Science of Kalam or the Foundations of Religion, history and content. Names of the science of Aqeedah and its topics

Interactive conversation, about the correct understanding of the science of Kalam.

Fourth week: Definition of the necessary scientific terminology for access to the science of Tawheed. Notions: Salaf, Halaf, Ahlul Sunnah, jewel, arad, etc.

Abu Hanifa and his role in the science of the Foundations of Religion

Suggestion of topics for seminar papers and essays.

Week Five: The main schools of Ahl al-Sunnah aqeedah and their emergence.

Understanding of the notions: School - madhhab, faction, etc.

Week Six: The Maturidi school of the study of aqeedah, its development, contribution and main representatives.

Interactive discussion about general knowledge about this school.

Week Seven: The doctrine of the Maturidi school, methodology and scope.

Discussion about the Maturidi doctrine and its scientific methodology.

(First test).

Week Eight: The Ash'ari school of the study of aqeedah issues, development, contributions and main representatives.

Discussion about general knowledge about this school.

Week Nine: The doctrine of the Ash'ari school, methodology and scope.

Discussion about the Ash'arite doctrine and its scientific methodology - similarities with the Maturidi school.

Week ten: The Hanbali school of study of aqeedah issues, its manifestations and main representatives.

Week Eleven: Doctrine of the Hanbali School, Methodology and Scope. Debate within the School about Tashbih.

Interactive discussion about the correct understanding between the schools of aqeedah.

Week Twelve: The main topics that caused debate among the scholars of the schools of aqeedah.

Discussion about the correct understanding of the methodology of the schools.

Week Thirteen: The Attributes of Habariyya between ta'wil and tafwid. Understanding and misunderstanding of the approaches of the scholars to the mutashabihat verses.

Week Fourteen: Introduction to the Aqeedah of Tahavi, similarities and differences with the schools of aqeedah.

Week Fifteen: Comparison between the schools of aqeedah of Ahl al-Sunnah, similarities and differences.

Interactive discussion about the application of religious topics in our country.

(Final test).

**Literature:**

Evaluation criteria and components:

Participation and engagement in lectures 10%

Seminar paper 20%

Intermediate test 30%

Final exam 40%

Total 100%

**Required literature:**

1. Mr. Naim Ternava, Science of Ilmul Kalam (basic principles), Prishtina 2023.

**Additional literature and bibliography:**

1. Five masterpieces of Abu Hanifa, translated by: Mustaf Bajrami, Prishtina, 2000

2. Kitabu't Tevhid, Imam Maturidiu (translated by: Metin Izeti) 2018.

3. The Knot of Faith of Imam Tahavi, Vehbi S. Gavoçi 2015.

4. Introduction to the basics of Islamic faith, Nexhat Ibrahim, Prishtina 2017.