

Course Syllabus: HADITH I – Semester II

Course Title: Hadith I – Hadith Terminology

Study Program: Islamic Studies

Number of ECTS Credits: 7

Course Status: Compulsory

Course Code: 108

Contact Hours: 3+2

Academic Year: 2026/2027

Semester: II

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sulejman Osmani

Brief Course Description:

Treatment of the position of the Sunnah (as the second source) in Islamic jurisprudence.
The development of the science of hadith throughout the centuries.
The most well-known hadith scholars and their scholarly activity, authors and books.
The stance of religious sects toward the Sunnah, analysis of their principles.
The terminology of hadith science, its fundamental principles and division of the subject matter.

Course Objectives

The course aims to study the Sunnah as the second foundation of Islam, presenting religious evidence from the Qur'an and the Sunnah regarding this issue. The study seeks to examine the legitimacy of the Prophet's (peace be upon him) legacy within Islamic legislation, its influence on practical life, and the fact that it represents legislative rulings and often complementary ones. The Sunnah also serves as an interpreter and commentator of the primary rulings derived from the Qur'an.

In the course of study, the subject also examines the stance of religious sects toward the Sunnah, analyzing their objectives in this field and providing a historical overview of their ideas and development. Furthermore, the study presents the opinions of those who denied the position of the Sunnah in Islam, highlighting their dilemmas based on their presumed arguments.

All these themes create opportunities for debate and open space for alternative perspectives, presenting the arguments of each side. The study aims to provide a clear understanding of the true position of the Sunnah in Islam.

The course also introduces students to the greatest authors of hadith science, who represent the primary authorities in this field, revealing their effort and contribution, especially in hadith studies. By presenting their model and scholarly output, students are encouraged toward more

serious engagement. The course aims to provide clear knowledge about the development of hadith science across different historical periods and its progression through the centuries.

Intended Learning Outcomes

1. To properly understand the role of the Sunnah in Islam.
2. To recognize the religious arguments that establish the legal basis of the Sunnah's position in Islam.
3. To communicate with others and have a realistic approach to the topics discussed.
4. To express responsibly views regarding the positioning of religious sects toward the Sunnah.
5. To promote ideas that support the subject matter.
6. To develop a clear understanding of the method of transmission of what has been inherited from the Prophet (peace be upon him).
7. To become acquainted with different categories of hadith and be able to identify them.
8. To understand the high level of scientific criticism applied by Islamic scholars to preserve accurately what has been transmitted from the Prophet (peace be upon him).

Teaching Methodology

1. Teaching is conducted in the form of lectures, mainly theoretical in nature.
2. Encouraging students to engage in interactive discussions by confronting ideas and arguments.
3. Promoting research of additional literature that encourages new ideas and comprehensive understanding of the subject.
4. Providing research topics related to the course field.
5. Research work in the library where students learn methods of locating hadiths and conducting research about them.

Course Content

Week One:

1. Introduction to the course content.

2. Main themes and objectives.
3. Syllabus analysis.
4. The Sunnah as a foundation of Islamic Shariah.
5. The role of the Sunnah in shaping the Islamic personality.
6. The meaning of Sunnah and related terms.
7. Definition of Sunnah.
8. The words, actions, and approvals of Muhammad (peace be upon him).
9. The personal and moral characteristics of Muhammad (peace be upon him).
10. The science of Hadith terminology: introduction and historical development.

Literature:

- *The Position of the Sunnah in Islam*, Sulejman Osmani (pp. 5–25)
- *Foundations of Hadith*, Musa Vila (pp. 13–29)

Week Two:

1. The term *Al-Hadith*.
2. *Al-Khabar*.
3. *Al-Athar*.
4. Religious arguments obligating adherence to the Sunnah.
5. The Qur'an.
6. The protection and preservation of the Prophet (peace be upon him).
7. The Sunnah as evidence for itself.
8. The impossibility of acting solely upon the Qur'an.

Literature:

- *The Position of the Sunnah in Islam* (pp. 26–49)

Week Three:

1. Can the Sunnah be independent in deriving rulings?

2. The fact that the Sunnah is of two categories – argument for the Sunnah.
3. *Ijma* ‘ (consensus) as evidence for the Sunnah.
4. The educational methodology of Muhammad (peace be upon him).
5. The contribution of the Companions in preserving hadith.
6. The state of hadith during the lifetime of the Prophet (peace be upon him).
7. The state of the Sunnah after the death of the Prophet (peace be upon him).
8. The order of ‘Umar ibn ‘Abd al-‘Aziz to collect hadith.
9. Methods of receiving hadith.

Literature:

- Same book (pp. 50–80)
- *Introduction to Hadith Science*, Fahrudin Ebibi (pp. 45–57)

Week Four:

1. The generation of the Prophet’s Companions.
2. How do we verify that someone is a Companion?
3. The Companions in the Islamic scale.
4. The number of Companions.
5. Some information about the Companions.
6. The state of hadith during the second century.
7. From the heritage of the second century.
8. Imam Malik and his *Muwatta*’.

Literature:

- *The Position of the Sunnah in Islam* (pp. 81–116)

Week Five:

1. Hadith during the third century.
2. Imam Ahmad and his *Musnad*.

3. The *Musnad* of Imam Ahmad.
4. The category of hadiths included in the *Musnad*.
5. From the golden century – the third method of hadith compilation.
6. Imam al-Bukhari and his *Sahih*.
7. What scholars said about him.
8. *Sahih al-Bukhari*.
9. Imam Muslim and his *Sahih*.
10. Comparisons between the two Sahihs.
11. Their conditions for recorded hadiths.

Literature:

- Same book (pp. 117–155)

Assessment Criteria and Components:

Attendance and participation: 10 points

Seminar paper: 20 points

First test: 30 points

Final exam: 40 points

Required Literature:

1. Sulejman Osmani, *The Position of the Sunnah in Islam*, Pristina, 2017.
2. *Foundations of Hadith*, Mr. Musa Vila, Pristina, 2009.

Consultative Literature:

1. The Qur'an; translation and commentary by H. Sherif Ahmeti, Medina, 1992.
2. Ibrahim Dalliu, *Udha Muhamedane*, AIITC, Tirana, 2000.
3. Yusuf al-Qaradawi, *Understanding the Sunnah – Methodological Guidelines and Rules*, Gjilan, 2001.

Academic Policies and Code of Conduct:

Lectures are compulsory; therefore, students must attend regularly. To encourage regular participation, 10 points are allocated in the assessment criteria. To achieve quality and excellence, students are encouraged toward greater learning and engagement.

Continuous work is done in building strong character that reflects values everywhere. Rules of conduct make the student dignified and beneficial both religiously and morally. Students are advised to behave well toward others, promote positive values, help one another, and cultivate tolerance both within the institution and outside it.