

Course Syllabus

Course: Tafsir IV – Thematic Interpretation of the Qur’an

Study Program: Islamic Studies

Number of ECTS Credits: 6

Course Status: Mandatory

Course Code: 411

Number of Hours: 3+2

Academic Year: 2026/2027

Semester: VIII

Lecturer: Prof. ass. dr. Lulzim Esati

Contact: e-mail: lulzimesati@gmail.com

Brief description of the course:

Course content: “Thematic Tafsir” (this course covers a number of topics extracted from the Glorious Qur’an, developed according to the method of thematic tafsir, including various issues from the fields of belief and worship as well as practical aspects of daily life within the environment and society in which we live).

Course objective:

The course aims to provide students with a foundational understanding of thematic interpretation and commentary of the Qur’an, exploring and studying the most important topics relevant to both the individual and society. It seeks to develop skills and abilities to analyze various issues included in the study program, enabling students to extract current themes directly from the Book of Allah (s.w.t.). The course also focuses on cultivating critical thinking for evaluating arguments based on the Qur’an, and on equipping students to write on different Qur’anic topics in a clear and persuasive style, both orally and in writing—qualities of a well-rounded academic education.

Through lectures in thematic tafsir, students are expected, upon completing this course, to gain substantial knowledge of handling topics directly from the Glorious Qur’an and researching important issues according to the methodology of thematic tafsir, one of the most contemporary approaches in Qur’anic commentary and interpretation. Students will understand the development of thematic tafsir from its early stages to the present day and be given the opportunity to critically engage in debates, promoting objectivity and progressiveness in deriving themes from the Qur’an, especially those of a religious nature.

Expected learning outcomes:

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

Describe the stages of development of thematic tafsir throughout history.

- Compare different topics studied during the course.
- Discuss these topics based on the arguments of each interpreter, presenting them as objectively as possible.
- Defend the positions of each interpreter as understood by their followers.
- Present critical opinions on each, supporting them with the arguments of each tafsir school.
- Apply the acquired knowledge when addressing various topics and interfaith issues.

Teaching methodology:

The course will be conducted using comparative and analytical study methods, through lectures, exercises, and interactive discussions.

Course content:

Week 1: Introduction, familiarization with the syllabus, methods, organization, requirements, and assessment. General overview: Contributions of early Islamic scholars to thematic tafsir and the use of this method in their commentaries.

Literature: Dr. Lulzim Esati, *Thematic Tafsir – Examples from the Qur'an* (this will be the main reference text, so only page numbers will be indicated going forward).

Week 2: Oaths taken by Muslim believers, oaths related to the Almighty God, and oaths directly related to the treatment of minorities in the Islamic state. Historical examples demonstrating Muslims' adherence to these oaths. Proposal of topics for seminar papers and essays. Interactive discussion on these oaths and opinions of early scholars regarding their fulfilment. by Muslims.

Literature: F: (340–357), *Thematic Commentary of the Qur'an*.

Week 3: The importance of dhikr in the Qur'an – the role of dhikr (remembrance of Allah) in the rehabilitation of the human heart. Consequences of neglecting the

remembrance of God on individual behavior. Methods, timing, and words of dhikr according to the Glorious Qur'an.

Literature: F: (212–220), *Thematic Commentary of the Qur'an*.

Week 4: Sincere repentance according to the Qur'an, and the conditions for genuine repentance. The father of humanity – Adam (a.s.) – as an example of sincere repentance. Examples of prophets (a.s.) in their repentance. The benefits of sincere repentance in this life and the Hereafter.

Literature: F: (158–162), *Thematic Commentary of the Qur'an*.

Week 5: Oaths taken by Christians according to the Qur'an, with references to oaths taken by Jesus (a.s.) regarding matters related to God, worship, and Prophet Muhammad (a.s.). Corresponding evidence from the Bible that aligns with some oaths mentioned in the Qur'an.

Literature: F: (322–340), *Thematic Commentary of the Qur'an*.

Week 6: Pride according to the Glorious Qur'an, causes of pride in the Qur'an, and the difference between Qur'anic pride and contemporary pride. Values of being proud according to the Qur'an, compared to dominant values in today's society, with reasons and distinctions.

Literature: F: (151–159), *Thematic Commentary of the Qur'an*.

Week 7: Human obligations toward non-Muslims, Qur'anic guidance outlining how Muslims should interact with non-Muslims in coexistence (trade, food, marriage, etc.), respecting their beliefs. Engaging in respectful debate on issues of disagreement with non-Muslims (People of the Book, pagans, atheists, etc.). Examples from the Qur'an regarding proper conduct of Muslims toward non-Muslims.

Literature: F: (47–54), *Thematic Commentary of the Qur'an*.

Week 8: Midterm exam

Week 9: Verses prohibiting corruption, verses clarifying the proper way to benefit from others' wealth, and verses illustrating the consequences of corruption, including an overview of corruption rates (%) in the Arab world.

Literature: F: (20–30), *Thematic Commentary of the Qur'an*.

Week 10: Sincerity in Aqeedah (faith), Ibadah (worship), Dua, etc., in the Qur'an. Practical examples from the Book of Allah (s.w.t.) demonstrating how sincerity grants believers special protection against the schemes of Satan (a.l.).

Literature: F: (165–172), *Thematic Commentary of the Qur'an*.

Week 11: The first human conflict in the Glorious Qur'an – the story of Adam's two sons, teaching about the first human crime in history. Consequences of this crime for

future generations. The sin of Qabil (the killer) compared to the righteous behavior of Habil (the victim). The killing of one person is equated with the killing of all humanity according to the Qur'an.

Literature: F: (109–118), *Thematic Commentary of the Qur'an*.

Week 12: The model of the righteous person in the Qur'an – the son of Pharaoh's aunt who helped Musa (a.s.), risking both power and life, chosen as an exemplary model for future generations who wish to uphold good values in society. Guidance on defending justice against powerful oppressors. The Qur'an details the debate between this person and Pharaoh, in the presence of Prophet Musa (a.s.).

Literature: F: (139–150), *Thematic Commentary of the Qur'an*.

Week 13: Human obligations toward Muslim neighbors in the Qur'an. Obligations of Muslims toward non-Muslim neighbors in the Qur'an.

Literature: F: (31–44), *Thematic Commentary of the Qur'an*.

Week 14: Rizq (provision) – its causes and sustenance according to the Qur'an, the role of human contribution in provision, reasons for increase and decrease of rizq in the Glorious Qur'an.

Literature: F: (251–261), *Thematic Commentary of the Qur'an*.

Week 15: Final Exam.

Literature: The Qur'an, translated by Hasan Nahi, 1986 edition.

Assessment criteria and components:

Participation and engagement in lectures: 10 points

Seminar paper: 20 points

Midterm exam: 30 points

Final exam: 40 points

Total: 100 points

Required literature:

1. Prof. Assoc. Dr. Lulzim Esati, *Thematic Tafsir – Examples from the Qur'an*, forthcoming publication, fourth-year textbook, Faculty of Islamic Studies, Prishtina, 2014.

Supplementary literature and bibliography:

1. Sh. Ahmeti, *The Qur'an – Translation with Commentary in Albanian*, printed at the Complex of the Two Holy Mosques, Medina, 1413 H.
2. *The Illuminating Kandil*, a short version of Ibn Kathir's tafsir, translated by Mr. Bashkim Aliu, published by the Islamic Youth Foundation, Zurich, 2007.
3. Muhamed el-Ghazali, *Thematic Commentary of the Glorious Qur'an*, Logos Publishing House, Skopje, 2007.
4. Vehbet Ez-Zuhejli, *At-Tafsir al-Munir*, Dar al-Fikr al-Mu'asir, Beirut, 1991.

Student workload contribution

Activity	Hours	Days\Weeks	Total
Lectures	2	15	30
Theoretical exercises	2	15	30
Practical work			
Consultations with instructor	1	10	10
Field exercises			
Colloquia, seminars, essays	1	10	10
Homework	1	10	10
Independent study (library or home)	1	10	10
Final exam preparation	5	2 days	10
Time spent on assessment (tests, essays, final exam)	3	5 days	15
Total	16	15 weeks	125