

(AM-550) Qur'ān Recitation/Tajwīd I

Meeting Dates and Times: Synchronous Sessions on Mondays 7:00pm – 9:00pm (ET)

Instructors: Dr. Okan Dogan & Ustadha Enas Ghassal

Office Hour: 7:00 pm-8:00pm (ET) on Tuesdays

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide students with competence in Qur'an recitation and the tajwīd rules in accordance with the recitation style of Ḥafṣ b. Sulayman (d. 796), which is the most widespread recitation style across the Muslim world today. The course structure is divided into two parts: the first part focuses on teaching the fundamental tajwīd rules, while the second part allows students to practice these rules through Qur'an recitation. The chapters are selected from those frequently recited by the Prophet in prayer. They include, but are not limited to, the chapters from Qaf to al-Nas, as well as al-Sajda and al-Kahf. Depending on their proficiency and interest, students have the flexibility to study and practice any of these chapters. The main recitation style is that of Ḥafṣ, which is easier for students who have not undertaken systematic tajwīd study. **However, those who prefer the riwāya of Warsh, the most widely practiced recitation style after that of Ḥafṣ, may study and practice the chapters according to it instead.** With a dual-structured approach, the course combines theoretical learning of the tajwīd rules with practical recitation sessions. Positioned as the first course in the sequence of Qur'an recitation courses, AM-550 lays the groundwork by covering the essential tajwīd rules needed for accurate Qur'an recitation. The course will benefit Muslim leaders, chaplains, and others interested in learning or improving their Qur'an recitation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will fulfill the following objectives of the Islamic Chaplaincy Program:

1. Read the chapters most frequently recited in prayer without major or minor mistakes
2. Learn the tajwīd rules necessary for proper Qur'ān recitation
3. Pronounce the Arabic letters properly
4. Learn the characteristics of the Arabic letters
5. Demonstrate a foundational and critical knowledge of the Islamic tradition as relevant to Muslim chaplains.
6. Enhance abilities related to spiritual/pastoral care and community service.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

MAC

- Graduates will have a working knowledge in scriptural languages, and/or ability to recite passages from scripture.

MAIRS

- At the level needed to take part in substantive dialogue, demonstrate knowledge of the roles of the scriptures and sacred texts of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
 1. Identify the scriptures and sacred texts of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, including their major divisions and parts.
 2. Explain and differentiate between various methods of historical and contemporary scriptural interpretation by adherents, paying attention to both the differences within and differences between religions.
- At the level needed to take part in substantive study, demonstrate knowledge of the theological and legal traditions within Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
 1. Identify and explain the major tenets and religious worldviews of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
 2. Describe the major branches of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam and the theological and/or legal differences between them.

ASSESSMENT:

Grading

- Attendance / Participation (10%)
- Presentation (10%)
- Project (20%)
- Weekly Assignments and Timesheet (40%)
- Oral and Theoretical Tests (20%)

Attendance / Participation (10%)

Active attendance in class is required. If you know you will be unable to attend a class session please inform the instructors in advance.

Presentation (10%)

Each student will present one tajwīd subject chosen by the instructors at the end of the course.

Weekly Assignments and Timesheet (40%)

There will be weekly assignments, which will include a) listening to recitations of assigned verses or chapters and b) exercises to help consolidate the tajwīd rules. Regular listening to Qur'ān recitations is crucial for improving our recitation skills. Students can choose to listen to a recommended qāri' such as Dr. Ayman Suwayd or Ibrahim al-Akhdar or they can use the instructors' recordings for their study. They are expected to listen to the assigned material 30

minutes daily, and document their study sessions in a timesheet which should be shared with their instructors. Detailed instructions on this process will be provided in our first class.

Course Project (20%)

By the end of the semester, students are expected to compile a Tajwīd manual that encompasses the topics covered throughout the course. The primary references for this project should be the course slides and Dr. Suwayd's book. While these materials are sufficient for completing the project, students who choose to include insights or quotations from other sources must provide proper citations.

Oral and Theoretical Tests (20%)

At the end of the semester, students will undergo both a theoretical test and recitation test based on the tajwīd topics covered in this course.

OTHER POLICIES

Appropriate Classroom Etiquette and Use of Technology

In order to respect the community within the classroom: 1) Mute all cell phones during class; 2) Utilize laptops for the sole purpose of taking class notes. Please do not surf the web, email, or other programs during class time.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism, the failure to give proper credit for the words and ideas of another person, whether published or unpublished, is strictly prohibited. All written material submitted by students must be their own original work; where the words and ideas of others are used they must be acknowledged. Additionally, if students receive editorial help with their writing they should also acknowledge it appropriately.

Credit will not be given for work containing plagiarism, and plagiarism can lead to failure of a course. Faculty will report all instances of plagiarism to the Academic Dean. The Academic Dean will then collect documented details of the case and advance any recommendations for further action to the Academic Policy Committee. Through this process the situation will be reviewed and any additional penalties that may be warranted (up to and including expulsion from the school) will be determined.

For clarity as to what constitutes plagiarism, the following description is provided:

1. Word for word plagiarism:

- a. the submission of another person's work as one's own;
- b. the submission of a commercially prepared paper;
- c. the submission of work from a source which is not acknowledged by a footnote or other specific reference in the paper itself;
- d. the submission of any part of another person's work without proper use of quotation marks.

2. Plagiarism by paraphrase:

a. mere re-arrangement of another person's works and phrases does not make them your own and also constitutes plagiarism;

b. paraphrasing another person's words, ideas, and information without acknowledging the original source from which you took them is also plagiarism.

3. See Part II of Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, (7th Edition, University of Chicago Press, 2007) for an explanation of the proper ways to acknowledge the work of others and to avoid plagiarism.

4. Reuse of your own work: Coursework submitted for credit in one course cannot be submitted for credit in another course. While technically not plagiarism, this type of infraction will be treated in the same manner as plagiarism and will be subject to the same penalties. If you are using small amounts of material from a previous submitted work, that work should be referenced appropriately. When a student is writing their final program requirement (paper, project or thesis) it may be appropriate, with their advisor's permission, to include portions of previously submitted materials if properly referenced.

MA, and PhD University Grading Scale

A (95-100) Demonstrates excellent mastery of the subject matter, a superior ability to articulate this, and provides helpful connections to daily life or contemporary issues. Exceeds expectations of the course.

A- (90-94) Demonstrates mastery of the subject matter, ability to articulate this well, and makes connections to daily life or contemporary issues. Exceeds expectations of the course.

B+(87-89) Demonstrates a very good understanding of the subject matter, able to articulate lessons learned in the assignment well. Meets expectations of the course.

B (83-86) Demonstrates an understanding of the subject matter and the ability to articulate lessons learned.

Meets expectations of the course.

B-(80-82) Demonstrates an understanding of the material at hand, has some difficulty articulating this, and basic connection of the material to daily life or contemporary issues/life. Meets basic expectations for the course.

C+(77-79) Demonstrates a basic comprehension of the subject matter, weak articulation and connections.

Does not meet expectations for the course.

C (70-76) Demonstrates a minimal comprehension of the subject matter and has difficulty making connections. Does not meet expectations of the course.

F (below 70) Unable to meet the basic requirements of the course.

Please note: A+'s and C-'s are not part of the grading system.

REQUIRED MATERIALS and TEXTS:

- Tajwīd Qur'ān (color coded) http://quran.ksu.edu.sa/index.php#aya=78_1
- Google Drive

Required Text:

- Suwayd Ayman Rushdi and Asiya Muhammad Akyurt. 2021. *Illustrated Tajweed* First ed. Damascus: al-Ghūthāni.

Recommended Texts:

- Czerepinski Kareema Carol. 2015. *Tajweed Rules of the Qur'an = Ahkām Tajwīd al-Qur'ān*. Jeddah: Dar Al-Khair Islamic Book
- Ibn al-Jazarī, Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad, and Muawiyah Abdus-Samad. 2012. *Al-Muqaddimah Al-Jazariyyah*. Jamiatul Ilm Wal Huda.

Course Schedule:

We will have 13 weeks, every Monday, to study together Qur'ānic recitation and have fun applying and practicing tajwīd rules.

Aug. 31, 2026

- Introduction
- Review the syllabus/expectations
- History of al-Muṣḥaf and 'Ilm al-Ḍabt & Isti'ātha & Basmalah
- Evaluation of students' recitation and Chapter Selection

Sep. 7, 2026

- **No Class**

Sep. 14, 2026

- Signs of al-Ḍabt in the muṣḥaf
- Tajwīd lesson,
 - Taḥqīq al-Ḥarakāt/Vowel Letters
 - Tajwīd lesson, Sukūn
- Recitation

Sep. 21, 2026

- **No Class**

Sep. 28, 2026

- Tajwīd lesson, the pronunciation of each letter/Makhārij al-Ḥurūf # 1
- Recitation

Oct. 5, 2026

- Tajwīd lesson, the pronunciation of each letter/Makhārij al-Hurūf # 2
- Recitation

Oct. 12, 2026

- **No Class**

Oct. 19, 2026

- Tajwīd lesson, al-Mudūd
- Recitation

Oct. 26, 2026

- Tajwīd lesson, Mr. Nūni #1 (The Rules of al-Nun al-Sakina)
- Recitation

Nov. 2, 2026

- Tajwīd lesson, Mr. Nūni #2 (The Rules of al-Nun al-Sakina)
- Recitation

Nov. 9, 2026

- Tajwīd lesson, Miss. Mīmi #1 (The Rules of al-Mim al-Sakina)
- Recitation

Nov. 16, 2026

- Tajwīd lesson, Miss. Mīmi #2 (The Rules of al-Mim al-Sakina)
- Recitation

Nov. 23, 2026

- Tajwīd lesson, characteristic of the letters #1
- Recitation

Nov. 30, 2026

- Tajwīd lesson, characteristic of the letters #2
- Recitation

Dec. 7, 2026

- Presentation

Dec. 14, 2026

- Oral Test and Theoretical Test