

Essentials of Marriage Course

Course Overview

Course Duration: 8 Sessions

Session Length: 50 minutes each

Start Date: Tuesday, 31st September

Time: 7:40 PM (*Ishā Jamā'ah* at 8:45 PM)

Location: Greenbank Masjid

Access: On-site or Online via Microsoft Teams

Course Objective

This course is designed to equip participants with essential Islamic knowledge on marriage—from its foundational principles to practical guidance on rights, responsibilities, intimacy, and separation. Participants will learn both the spiritual and legal dimensions of marriage as taught in classical scholarship and relevant to contemporary life.

Certification

A **Certificate of Completion** will be awarded to students who meet the following criteria:

- **100% attendance** of all sessions
- **A minimum score of 85%** in the final assessment
- **Assessment details** will be explained at the start of the course

Course Outline

Lesson 1: Purpose of Marriage and Who You Can Marry

Topics Covered:

- What is allowed during the engagement period
- The definition and significance of Nikah
- Is Nikah Sunnah for everyone? When does it become obligatory?

- What if someone cannot afford to marry?
- Who is permitted and prohibited to marry in Islam (mahram and non-mahram)
- Compatibility (kafa'ah) in selecting a spouse

Lesson 2: Consent, Guardianship, and Conditions for a Valid Nikah

Topics Covered:

- Proposal, acceptance (Ijab and Qabul) and Witnesses
- The role of a wali (guardian) in marriage
- Can a woman marry without her parents' or wali's consent?
- Location of Nikah—mosque, home, or other settings
- The Khutbah (marriage sermon) and the recommended supplications
- Common errors and cultural practices that conflict with Islamic principles

Lesson 3: Mahr (Dowry) and Walimah (banquet)

Topics Covered:

- Definition and purpose of *mahr* in the Qur'an and Sunnah
- Prompt (*mu'ajjal*) and deferred (*mu'akhkhar*) forms of mahr
- What amount is considered appropriate and reasonable?
- Can the *mahr* be waived by the bride?
- Examples of *mahr* from the Prophet ﷺ
- The Sunnah of Walimah — its timing, significance, and simplicity

Lesson 4: Rights and Responsibilities in Marriage

Topics Covered:

- Mutual obligations between husband and wife
- The wife's rights
- The husband's rights

Lesson 5: Rights continued, Intimacy and Boundaries in Islam (Part 1)

Topics Covered:

- Permissible forms of sexual intimacy in marriage
- The importance of mutual consent and emotional safety
- Building comfort, trust, and mutual understanding
- Privacy, modesty, and respecting personal boundaries

Lesson 6: Intimacy and Boundaries in Islam (Part 2)

Topics Covered:

- Acts that are impermissible in Islam
- Intimacy during fasting and menstruation
- Addressing discomfort or dysfunction within marriage
- Fulfilling marital desires within ethical guidelines
- Contemporary questions and modest guidance

Lesson 7: Divorce, Khula, and Annulment

Topics Covered:

- When is divorce valid, and when should it be avoided?
- The correct method of issuing a divorce
- The issue of issuing three divorces at once—one or three?
- Types of divorce: revocable (raj'i) and irrevocable (bain)
- Which words will constitute a divorce?
- What is Khula? How and when can a woman request it?
- Judicial annulment (faskh) of a nikāh
- What if a husband refuses to issue a divorce?

Lesson 8: Iddah and Course Review

Topics Covered:

- What is Iddah (the waiting period)?
- When does Iddah apply?
- Duration and rulings during Iddah
- The wisdom behind the Iddah period