University of Tübingen – Center for Islamic Theology

Courses taught in English, Winter Semester 2018/19

Islamic Theology – Bachelor

Course title: Der Islam und andere Religionen
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20182e177386
Course type: Seminar
Contact hours: 2
Course coordinator: Dr. phil. Samer Rashwani, Ph.D. Blanca Villuendas Sabaté
Course description
This course will examine two paradigmatic study cases of the co-existence among Muslims, Jews and Christians in the history of Islam: the emergence of Islam in Arabia and the so called convivencia in al-Andalus. By looking both at historical sources and modern bibliography (both in English), the students will approach a variety of textual witnesses as well as the main historiographic thesis, in order to discuss their most critical aspects.

Course title: Early and Medieval Islamic Art and Architecture
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20182e177703
Course type: Seminar
Contact hours: 2
Course coordinator: Ph.D. Bilal Badat
Course description
This course explores the formation of Islamic art through a survey of the architecture, calligraphy, ceramics, and arts of the book of the Islamic world during the critical period of transition from the beginning of Islam in seventh century Arabia to the early Ottoman period. The lectures focus in particular on patterns of cultural patronage in the early Islamic period, and the shifting aesthetic, cultural, religious and political contexts that influenced early Islamic art and architecture. On this course students will learn to appreciate the different styles that defined the art and architecture of a number of Islamic polities (such as the Umayyads, Fatimids, Abbasids, Seljuqs, Mamluks, Ottomans, and the Delhi Sultanates), and analyse the role played by antecedent visual cultures in the formation of Islamic art. This course also explores methodological questions pertaining to definitions of Islamic art, historiography, and critical approaches to Islamic material culture.
**Course title:** Islamic Calligraphy  
**Link:** [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20182e176670](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20182e176670)  
**Course type:** Seminar  
**Contact hours:** 2  
**Course coordinator:** Ph.D. Bilal Badat  
**Course description**  
This course introduces students to thuluth (Turkish: sülüs), one of the most important scripts of Islamic calligraphy. Throughout history thuluth has been used to transcribe the Quran and compose architectural inscriptions. Students will be guided through the different stages of learning thuluth by following the traditional Ottoman method of instruction, a method which begins with the learning of single letters followed by compound letter constructions and sentences. This course also familiarise students with how to prepare the traditional tools and materials of calligraphy, and includes an introduction to the theory, practice and history of Islamic calligraphy. All materials will be provided on this course, including: A reed pen (kalem) Black ink A lika (A ball of silk thread) Paper A handbook of the thuluth script: Memed Sevki Evendis Mesk Murakkai (album of calligraphy exercises).  
**Course Objectives:** Improve writing skills in the thuluth/sülüs script Improve students abilities to the traditional tools and materials. Familiarise students with the traditional Ottoman method of learning calligraphy. Learn to appreciate the different styles of Islamic calligraphy.  
Develop a deeper appreciation of the history of Islamic calligraphy through practice. Each student will bee assigned a particular calligraphic exercise (mesk). Students will work on this exercise in class, and then continue to practice at home. Students should then prepare a final copy of the exercise to show the teacher the following week for corrections.  
**Assignments:** Completing the assigned exercise each week. Final assessment: A completed calligraphic exercise to be assigned by the teacher.

**Course title:** Sira: The Prophet Muhammad in His Time and Through the Ages  
**Link:** [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20182e178592](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20182e178592)  
**Course type:** Seminar  
**Contact hours:** 2  
**Course coordinator:** Dr. Amina Nawaz  
**Course description**  
This class will explore the life and personhood of the Prophet Muhammad (d. 632). After imparting important chronology in the first few sessions, the majority of the course will take a thematic approach to the sira, examining the personhood of the Prophet Muhammad.

**Course title:** Systematische Theologie und Philosophie: Knowing God - Theological, Philosophical and Mystical Perspectives  
**Link:** [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20182e176715](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20182e176715)  
**Course type:** Lecture  
**Contact hours:** 2  
**Course coordinator:** Prof. Dr. phil. Lejla Demiri  
**Prerequisites**  
Erfolglicher Abschluss des Aqida-Seminars.  
**Course description**  
This course is intended to reflect on the history of Islamic Theology (kalam) and philosophy (falsafa) with a special focus on the knowledge of God. Arguments for the existence of God and His unity, discourse on the Divine nature and His attributes, the vision of God (ru yat Allah), and discussions on the relationship between God and humanity (e.g. free will and predestination, divine and His communication with creation) are some of the topics to be covered.
Islamic Theology in the European Context – Master

Course title: Academic English for Islamic Theology (Basic): Human-ity - Reflections from Theology and Literature
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20182e177056
Course type: Exercises
Contact hours: 2
Course coordinator: Dr. Amina Nawaz

Course description
This course is part of the English for Theologians Programme at the Centre for Islamic Theology, and a requirement for MA students taking the Islam in European Contexts Masters. It consists of two semesters, and is examined via student presentations in the first semester and the preparation of an annotated bibliography (the equivalent of a short essay) in the second semester. In semester one we focus on cultivating a comfort with English texts and take as our departure point, the “big question”of what it means to be human. We will explore humans as they write about living (and living well!), building, crafting, sensing, and worshipping to name a few, and ultimately seek to discover what we may of humanity and its place in the cosmos. This course will function as an advanced seminar, relying upon extensive discussion and close textual study. Each class will examine the significant essays of writers who have reflected upon the central theme, critically scrutinising both the content and the composition of the works and engaging with the texts from Islamic theological perspectives. The objective of this course is not to “teach English” but rather, to create a platform in which students of Islamic theology can begin to utilise English as a medium for their scholarship.

Course title: Islam and Religious Pluralism - Muslim Perceptions of the Religious “Other”: A Theology of Difference in the Writings of Abd al-Ghani al-Nabulusi
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20182e176732
Course type: Seminar
Contact hours: 2
Course coordinator: Prof. Dr. phil. Lejla Demiri

Prerequisites
Knowledge of Arabic (min. B2)

Course description
The seminar will focus on the theological corpus of Abd al Ghani al Nabulusi (d. 1143/1731), one of the major Muslim Scholars of 18th century Ottoman Syria. In a number of treatises Nabulusi deals with the question of the religion “Other”, particularly Christians. Questions related to salvation, religious diversity and pluralism often appear in his writings. Despite the importance of Nabulusian theology of compassion, this magisterial figure has not attracted the attention it deserves. The seminar will offer a unique opportunity to discuss Nabulusis inclusivist theology, based on a careful reading of primary sources in Arabic.

Course title: Islam and Religious Pluralism - Muslim Perceptions of the Religious “Other”: A Theology of Difference in the Writings of Abd al-Ghani al-Nabulusi
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20182e176736
Course type: Exercises
Contact hours: 1
Course coordinator: Prof. Dr. phil. Lejla Demiri
Prerequisites
Knowledge of Arabic (min. B2)

Course description
The tutorial will focus on a number of pre-modern sources and scholars that inspired Abd al Ghani al Nabulusi (d. 1143/1731)’s theological world. As a theologian, jurist, and sufi poet, Nabulusi was a strong admirer and defender of Ibn Arabi (d. 638/1240) vision of compassion and love. Nabulusi further commented on the works of Abu Hamid al-Ghazzali (d. 505/1111) Abu l-Hasan-al Shushtari (d. 668/1269), Abd al-Karim al-Jili (d. 810/1408 or 831/1428) and many others. The Tutorial will provide an opportunity to analyse some of the major texts that inspires Nabulusi in constructing his views of religious pluralism.