University of Tübingen – Center for Islamic Theology

Courses taught in English, Summer Semester 2018

**Islamic Religious Education – Bachelor of Education / Islamic Theology – Bachelor**

**Course Title:** Systematic Theology and Philosophy: The Notion of God according to Islamic Theology and Philosophy  
**Link:** [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20181e163285](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20181e163285)  
**Course type:** Lecture  
**Contact hours:** 2  
**Course coordinator:** Prof. Dr. phil. Lejla Demiri  
**Prerequisites**  
Absolvieren des Seminars ‘Glaubenslehre (Aqida)’  
**Course description**  
This course is intended to reflect on the history of Islamic theology (kalām) and philosophy (falsafa) with a special focus on the image of God. Arguments for the existence of God and His unity, discourse on the divine nature and attributes, the vision of God (ru’yat Allāh), and discussions on the relationship between God and humanity (e.g. free will and predestination, divine revelation and communication) are some of the topics to be covered.

**Course Title:** Islamic Calligraphy  
**Link:** [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20181e168949](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20181e168949)  
**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 Qur’an and compose architectural inscriptions and compositions. 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 familiarizes 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: Mehmed Şevki Efendi’s Meşk Murakkai (album of calligraphic exercises). 1. Course Objectives Improve writing skills in the thuluth/sülüs script. Improve students’ abilities to use 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. 2. Course Structure Each week, students will be assigned a particular calligraphic exercise (meşk). 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.

**Course Title:** Islamic Manuscripts  
**Link:** [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20181e163291](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20181e163291)  
**Course type:** Exercises  
**Contact hours:** 2  
**Course coordinator:** Ph.D. Blanca Villuendas Sabaté  
**Course description**  
This course provides an introduction to the study of Islamic manuscripts. With an insight to the different disciplines and methodologies involved: Codicology, Palaeography, Cataloguing and Text Edition, the student will acquire the elementary tools needed to develop a manuscript based research. Therefore, the course represents a gate to a rich textual legacy preserved in manuscripts whose study still has a lot to offer.

**Course Title:** The One God, Our God and the God of the Others: Scriptural and Doctrinal Reasoning on the Unity of God  
**Link:** [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20181e168995](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20181e168995)  
**Course type:** Seminar  
**Contact hours:** 2  
**Course coordinator:** Prof. Dr. phil. Lejla Demiri, o. Prof. Dr. theol. Christoph Schwöbel  
**Course description**  
Affirming the unity of the one God is for Christianity and Islam of central significance. In this respect both religions share a commitment to strict monotheism – a principle also crucial for Judaism. Christians claim that confessing the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as the one God is not a deviation from monotheism but rather an extension of the monotheistic principle. Muslims on the other hand critically approach the Trinitarian notion of God. If there is only one God, can God be our God and not the God of the others as well? Do Christians and Muslims then worship one God, or even the same God? The seminar will aim to approach these questions first through the method of Scriptural Reasoning, Christians interpreting central passages of the Bible and Muslims interpreting central passages from the Qur’an, for one another and with one another. This is the fourth seminar in a series of seminars employing this method. This time the format is slightly changed. The classes will take place every fortnight, thus enabling us to have two sessions on one day with a break in-between. We shall also look at texts from the doctrinal tradition (kalam) which also engage in scriptural reasoning as a means for practising our scriptural reasoning.
Course Title: Islamic Philosophy  
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20181e170376  
Course type: Block Course  
Contact hours: 2  
Course coordinator: DPhil Harith Bin Ramli  
Course description  
This seminar series aims to introduce students to the study of the classical Islamic philosophical tradition known as Falsafa. The term Falsafa itself is derived from the Greek term "philosophia" - "love of wisdom." Quite frequently in the Arabic-Islamic tradition, Falsafa would also be described as "Wisdom" - al-Ḥikma. Therefore, the course could be considered an invitation to the study of wisdom in the broadest sense of the term, and how this was understood in the Islamicate world, not only within the confines of the Islamic tradition, but also by Arabic-speaking philosophers of other religious traditions who shared this common interest with their Muslim colleagues. The course will approach the study of Falsafa through a series of seminars on a selection of key topics, looking also at key historical developments and figures that contributed to the development of Falsafa and philosophical theology up to the modern era, including pre-Islamic philosophers such as Plotinus as well as some of its major opponents such as Ibn Taymiyya. The readings will comprise of a combination of Arabic texts in English translation as well as the original Arabic. The course will also introduce the student to a number of modern interpretations of Falsafa, and explore the degree to which the Islamic philosophical tradition might still be relevant to today's issues and needs.

Course Title: English for Islamic Theologians: Thinking Theologically  
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20181e163275  
Course type: Seminar  
Contact hours: 2  
Course coordinator: Mujadad Zaman  
Course description  
Each week students will prepare assigned readings and participate in class discussion. The readings, writing assignments and discussion will be exclusively in English, allowing students to engage English in their scholarship in a more thorough way. Students will prepare short presentations to share with the group regarding the particular theme under review and partake in extensive discussion about what topics emerge, how they appear in theory and/or practice and where they may be heading. Students are expected to thoroughly engage with the readings each week in order to be prepared for lively discussion. The examination of this course will be an essay and presentation.

Islamic Theology in the European Context – Master

Course Title: Academic English for Islamic Theologians (Advanced): Topics in Islamic Theology  
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20181e163300  
Course type: Exercises  
Contact hours: 2  
Course coordinator: Dr. Amina Nawaz  
Course description  
This seminar examines a wide range of selected topics and readings pertaining to Islamic theological studies in ‘Western’ contexts. Each week students will prepare the assigned readings, write a short written piece, as well as participate in class discussion. The readings, writing assignments and discussion will be exclusively in English, allowing students to engage English in their scholarship in a more thorough way. Students will prepare short presentations to share with
the group regarding the particular theme under review and partake in extensive discussion about
what topics emerge, how they appear in theory and/or practice and where they may be heading. A
key component of this seminar will require examining the extent to which the debates that we see
today are contemporary or whether they are part of larger, reoccurring discourses. Readings each
week will be grouped by the selected topic and will include both primary and secondary sources.
Students are expected to thoroughly engage with the readings each week in order to be prepared
for lively discussion. The examination of this course will be the preparation of an annotated
bibliography of English sources (eq. length of an essay).

Course Title: Authors and Texts from al-Andalus
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20181e168923
Course type: Seminar
Contact hours: 2
Course coordinator: Ph.D. Blanca Villuendas Sabaté
Course description
This Seminar is conceived as reading class of Arabic texts, aimed at providing the students with
an overview on the intellectual production in al-Andalus, as well as at increasing their reading
capacities of Arabic sources. The texts will constitute a selection of fragments of relevant works
from different authors, genres and themes. Following a chronological perspective, the lecturer will
provide an introduction to the historical frame of every reading and will encourage the students to
pursue a critical approach.

Course Title: Islamic Calligraphy
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20181e168949
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 Qur’an and
compose architectural inscriptions and compositions. 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 familiarizes 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: Mehmed Şevki
Efendi’s Meşk Murakkâi (album of calligraphic exercises).

1. Course Objectives
   Improve writing skills in the thuluth/sülüs script.
   Improve students’ abilities to use 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.

2. Course Structure
   Each week, students will be assigned a particular calligraphic exercise (meşk). 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.

Course Title: Ottoman and Turkish Art and Architecture
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20181e168948
Course type: Seminar
Contact hours: 2
Course coordinator: Ph.D. Bilal Badat
Course description
This course examines the art and architecture of the Ottoman Empire, covering the material
culture (including calligraphy, the arts of the book, monuments, textiles, and ceramics) of the Ottomans from the period of rise and expansion to the early twentieth century. The course looks at patronage, politics, religion, and mysticism as key elements to understanding the development of Ottoman artistic and architectural traditions, exploring both the antecedent visual cultures that the Ottomans came into contact with, and the shifting dynamics of the Ottoman dynastic style under patrons such as Sultan Mehmed II, Sultan Süleyman, and Sultan Mahmud II. This course also considers the relationship between Ottoman art and imperialism, colonialism, and nationalism, and examines the impetus for the classical Ottoman style in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries in contemporary Turkey. Furthermore, this course includes a comparative discussion of the Ottoman dynastic style within the broader political landscapes of the Safavid and Mughal Empires.

Course Title: The One God, Our God and the God of the Others: Scriptural and Doctrinal Reasoning on the Unity of God
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20181e168995
Course type: Seminar
Contact hours: 2
Course coordinator: Prof. Dr. phil. Lejla Demiri, o. Prof. Dr. theol. Christoph Schwöbel
Course description
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