Courses taught in English, Summer Semester 2019

**Islamic Theology – Bachelor and Master**

**Course title:** From Ertugrul to Erdogan: Ottoman and Turkish Art and Architecture, Media, and Culture  
**Link:** [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20191e186247](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20191e186247)  
**Course type:** Seminar  
**Contact hours:** 2  
**Course coordinator:** Ph.D. Bilal Badat  
**Course description**  
This course examines the art and architecture, media, and culture of the Ottoman Empire and contemporary Turkish Republic, 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 twenty first century. The course looks at patronage, politics, religion, and mysticism as key elements to understanding the development of Ottoman and Turkish 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 return of the classical Ottoman style in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries in contemporary Turkey, as well television and media culture in Turkey today. 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:** Islamic Calligraphy  
**Link:** [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20191e184747](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20191e184747)  
**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 Murakka (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/20191e184748
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, through theory and practice, 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: Expressions of Islamic Mysticism
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20191e184749
Course type: Lecture
Contact hours: 2
Course coordinator: Dr. Amina Nawaz

Course description
This course will explore Tasawwuf or Islamic mysticism with attention to:
- What it means to study ‘Sufism’ in the modern academy
- Origins and historical developments
- Key figures and their writings
- Central concepts of expressions of mysticism

Course title: Salvation and Right Guidance. Scriptural and Doctrinal Reasoning on the Ways to Fulfilment
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20191e187466
Course type: Seminar
Contact hours: 2
Course coordinator: Prof. Dr. phil. Lejla Demiri, o. Prof. Dr. theol. Christoph Schwöbel

Course description
This course will offer a unique opportunity for students to focus on how the Bible and the Qur’an view divine guidance. Who defines the right path? What is divine pleasure (riḍa) and wrath (gaḍab)? Who is regarded to be 'saved'? What does fulfilment mean and how is one to achieve it? Questions such as these will be discussed by engaging with the Bible and the Qur’an, following the method of Scriptural Reasoning. For the Bible and the Qur’an the questions of divine guidance and salvation are placed in the context of God’s communication with his creatures, calling for their response. God is seen as the one who not only offers guidance by addressing human creatures in
various ways but who also enables their response through the transformation of the human heart. The question ‘what is the right way that leads to fulfilment?’ opens up the wealth of orientations in the Bible and in the Qur'an, which have been at the centre of conversations in Christian and Muslim communities and in the conversations of both communities with one another. These conversations continue in the practice of scriptural and doctrinal reasoning in the seminar.

**Course title:** Knowing God: Theological, Philosophical and Mystical Perspectives  
**Link:** [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20191e184771](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20191e184771)  
**Course type:** Lecture  
**Contact hours:** 2  
**Course coordinator:** Prof. Dr. phil. Lejla Demiri  
**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 revelation and His communication with creation) are some of the topics to be covered.

**Course title:** Western Intellectual Tradition for Theologians  
**Link:** [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20191e186239](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20191e186239)  
**Course type:** Seminar  
**Contact hours:** 2  
**Course coordinator:** Mujadad Zaman  
**Course description**  
Why should a student of theology be acquainted with or study the works of Plato, René Descartes or Karl Marx? This seminar attempts to answer this question through exploring key figures in the western intellectual canon and their relevance for theological discourse. Whether this relevance or importance is apparent or tacit, the seminar to dedicated to offering students a well-rounded view of theology, making it indispensable for those wishing to explore their discipline within the broader spectrum of intellectual history.

**Islamic Theology in the European Context – Master**

**Course title:** Academic English for Islamic Theologians (Advanced): Contending with Theological Conundrums  
**Link:** [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20191e184733](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20191e184733)  
**Course type:** Exercises  
**Contact hours:** 2  
**Course coordinator:** Mujadad Zaman  
**Prerequisites**  
Academic English for Islamic Theology (Basic).  
**Course description**  
This seminar is a continuation from the Winter Semester and focusses specifically upon a critical engage with contemporary Islamic theological scholarship from the English speaking world.