University of Tübingen – Center for Islamic Theology

Courses taught in English, Winter Semester 2016/17

Islamic Theology in the European Context – Master

**Course title:** Muslim-Christian Ordinary Encounters in the Mediterranean (Middle Ages and Early Modern Times)  
**Link:** http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20162e142897  
**Course type:** Seminar  
**Contact hours:** 2  
**Course coordinator:** Dr. Amina Nawaz, Dr. phil. Davide Scotto  
**Course description**

This seminar will explore the historical relevance of the medieval and early-modern Mediterranean as a coherent spatial and temporal context, and as a unique framework to study interreligious debates, confrontations and encounters. Through the careful reading of primary sources, the seminar aims to highlight the role of “ordinary” or “everyday” religious encounters (pilgrimages, sanctuaries, experiences of sacred space, conversions, written works) as an historical lens to understand Muslim-Christian relations, engaging and interrogating ideas of ‘polemic’ and ‘religious pluralism’. The seminar will be taught exclusively in English. As such, students are required to have requisite knowledge in order to participate.

**Course title:** The Art of Living: Themes in Islamic Theology and World Literature  
**Link:** http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20162e142888  
**Course type:** Practical Course  
**Contact hours:** 2  
**Course coordinator:** Dr. Amina Nawaz, Mujadad Zaman  
**Prerequisites**

Ability to read, write and speak English with high proficiency  
**Course description**

"Know, O beloved, that man was not created in jest or at random, but marvellously made and for some great end. Although he is not form everlasting, yet he lives for ever; and though his body is mean and earthly, yet his spirit is lofty and divine". Al-Ghazali’s famous opener to The Alchemy of Happiness is a clarion call to the reader to seek out meaning and forms the departure point for the English for Islamic Theologians Seminar in the Summer Semester. Focusing on the theme of "the art of living", the 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 this theme within Islamic literature and beyond, including those such as Henry David Thoreau, John Ruskin, Rachel Carson, William Wordsworth, Naomi Klein, Germaine Greer, George Orwell, Christopher Alexander and others, critically scrutinising both the content and the composition and engaging with the texts from Islamic theological perspectives. Key components of this course include critical reading, class participation and perfecting the long form
essay. This course is part of the English for Theologians Programme at the Centre for Islamic Theology, and a requirement for MA students but open to BA students with instructor permission. 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.