University of Tübingen – Center for Islamic Theology

Courses taught in English, Summer Semester 17

**Islamic Theology – Bachelor**

**Course title:** Aristotelian Tradition in Islamic Philosophy  
**Link:** [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20171e145957](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20171e145957)  
**Course type:** Seminar  
**Contact hours:** 2  
**Course coordinator:** M.A. Vladimir Lasica  
**Target audience**  
ab Fachsemester 6  
**Course description**  
In this course we will analyse the development of Islamic Philosophy through some essential texts. We will concentrate on the works of so-called "Muslim Aristotelians" that were known and influenced philosophy of the Western world. Our goal is to introduce students with the importance of Aristotle's metaphysics and theory of demonstration for the development of philosophy in Islamic civilization, that will influence Western world.  

1.1 Course introduction  
1.2 What is metaphysics? Aristotle's Metaphysics, Book I – Aristotle's Notion of God. Metaphysics, Book XII -  Λ  
Al-Kindi, On First Philosophy. Al-Farabi, On the Perfect State, Chapter 1; on God  
Al-Farabi, On the Perfect State, Chapter 5; Matter and Form  
Al-Farabi's Notion of Soul and Intellect, On the Perfect State, Chapter 10, 13 and 14  
Ibn Sina, What is Metaphysics? Ibn Sina's Metaphysics, Book I  
Ibn Sina's Argument for God's Existence, Metaphysics, Book VIII  
Ibn Sina's Theory of Emanation and Prophethood, Metaphysics, Book IX and X  
Al-Ghazali's Tahāfut al-Falāsifah, Author's Introduction – problem of metaphysics  
Al-Ghazali's critique of philosophical notion of causality, Tahāfut al-Falāsifah, Book XVIII  
Ibn Tufayl and Ibn Bajja, Mysticism and Philosophy in Andalus, p. 33-40  
Ibn Rushd on philosophy, On Harmony of Religion and Philosophy  
Ibn Rushd's response to al-Ghazali – Tahāfut al-Tahāfut, Book XVII  
An alternative approach to Aristotelianism, Philosophy of Mulla Sadra Shirazi

**Course title:** God, Human and non-Human Creatures: Scriputal Reasoning as an Approach to Questions of a Theological Ecology  
**Link:** [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20171e151420](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20171e151420)  
**Course type:** Seminar  
**Contact hours:** 2  
**Course coordinator:** Prof. Dr. phil. Lejla Demiri, o. Prof. Dr. theol. Christoph Schwöbel  
**Course description**  
The issues of ecology and their relation to the religions have been a focus of discussions in ecological ethics for forty years. The monotheistic religions, like Christianity and Islam, have been criticized for presenting an anthropocentric outlook on the natural environment, which has contributed to a widespread neglect of the flourishing of the non-human creation. In recent years questions of the religious and ethical significance of the natural environment have become a constitutive dimension in theological reflection and not only the subject matter of a regional ethics, like ‘ecological ethics’. The seminar focuses on scriptural texts from the Bible and the Qur'an to uncover the foundations of reflecting on the relationship between God, human creatures and the non-human creation. What do the scriptural traditions say about the relationship of the Creator to
the non-human creation? What is the intrinsic significance of creation as a whole, anchored in its relationship to the Creator? What is the place of humans in the divinely ordered cosmos and what kind of guidance is offered for relating to the natural environment. How are questions of ecological sustainability to be viewed in relation to the finite character of creation and the vision of the eschatological goal of creation in both faith traditions? Questions such as these are discussed by engaging with the scriptural texts, following the method of Scriptural Reasoning. Students from both faith traditions introduce texts from their own tradition, explore their status and function in the religious life and discuss their value for the orientation of action. The approach of Scriptural Reasoning which is practised in many non-academic and academic contexts is aimed at enriching the understanding of one’s own faith tradition and that of the other and at searching for fruitful interfaces of mutual understanding.

**Course title**: History of Islamic Theology and Philosophy: Scholars, Works and Concepts  
**Link**: [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20171e145960](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20171e145960)  
**Course type**: Lecture  
**Contact hours**: 2  
**Course coordinator**: Prof. Dr. phil. Lejla Demiri  
**Target audience**: Fachsemester: 5 (B.A.), 6 (B,Theol.) und 4 (Staatsexamen und B. Edu.)  
**Course description**: This course is intended to offer an overview of the history of Islamic theology (kalām) and philosophy (falsafa). Beginning with the formative period, the course will examine the major trends of thought, schools of theology and philosophy, and their methodologies. Arguments for the existence of God and His unity, discourse on the divine nature and attributes, discussions on the relationship between free will and predestination, scripture (naql) and reason (‘aql), theology and philosophy are some the topics to be covered.

**Course title**: Sacred Sound - Musikalische Manifestationen des Sakralen im interreligiösen Vergleich  
**Link**: [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20171e153354](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20171e153354)  
**Course type**: Seminar  
**Contact hours**: 2  
**Course coordinator**: Dr. phil. habil. Stefan Morent, Mujadad Zaman  
**Prerequisites**: Ability to read, write and speak English with high proficiency.  
Islamic Theology in the European Context – Master

Course title: God, Human and non-Human Creatures: Scriputal Reasoning as an Approach to Questions of a Theological Ecology
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20171e151420
Course type: Seminar
Contact hours: 2
Course coordinator: Prof. Dr. phil. Lejla Demiri, o. Prof. Dr. theol. Christoph Schwöbel

Course description
The issues of ecology and their relation to the religions have been a focus of discussions in ecological ethics for forty years. The monotheistic religions, like Christianity and Islam, have been criticized for presenting an anthropocentric outlook on the natural environment, which has contributed to a widespread neglect of the flourishing of the non-human creation. In recent years questions of the religious and ethical significance of the natural environment have become a constitutive dimension in theological reflection and not only the subject matter of a regional ethics, like ‘ecological ethics’. The seminar focuses on scriptural texts from the Bible and the Qur’an to uncover the foundations of reflecting on the relationship between God, human creatures and the non-human creation. What do the scriptural traditions say about the relationship of the Creator to the non-human creation? What is the intrinsic significance of creation as a whole, anchored in its relationship to the Creator? What is the place of humans in the divinely ordered cosmos and what kind of guidance is offered for relating to the natural environment. How are questions of ecological sustainability to be viewed in relation to the finite character of creation and the vision of the eschatological goal of creation in both faith traditions? Questions such as these are discussed by engaging with the scriptural texts, following the method of Scriptural Reasoning. Students from both faith traditions introduce texts from their own tradition, explore their status and function in the religious life and discuss their value for the orientation of action. The approach of Scriptural Reasoning which is practised in many non-academic and academic contexts is aimed at enriching the understanding of one’s own faith tradition and that of the other and at searching for fruitful interfaces of mutual understanding.

Course title: Sacred Sound - Musikalische Manifestationen des Sakralen im interreligiösen Vergleich
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20171e153354
Course type: Seminar
Contact hours: 2
Course coordinator: Dr. phil. habil. Stefan Morent, Mujadad Zaman

Prerequisites
Ability to read, write and speak English with high proficiency.

Course description
Practical Islamic Theology-Pastoral Care and Social Work – Master

Course title: Topics in Islamic Theology  
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20171e152464  
Course type: Seminar  
Contact hours: 2  
Course coordinator: Mujadad Zaman  
Prerequisites:  
ab Fachsemester: MA Theology in European Contexts  
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 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 likely 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.