University of Tübingen – Center for Islamic Theology

Courses taught in English, Winter Semester 17/18

Islamic Religious Education – Bachelor of Education

Course title: English for Islamic Theology  
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e161474  
Course type: Seminar  
Contact hours: 2  
Course coordinator: Mujadad Zaman  
Prerequisites: Weekly Reading and in class discussions  
Course description: This seminar aims to introduce students to the breadth of Islamic Education, both in terms of its theological importance and manifestation throughout Islamic history. Our starting point is to think how education relates to cosmology and an understanding of the Divine order of created beings. From here we case study Prophet Muhammad as a paragon of pedagogic importance to Islamic education and develop ideas of teaching, learning and psychology and his seerah.

Course title: Exegesis of Dreams in Islam  
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e160779  
Course type: Seminar  
Contact hours: 2  
Course coordinator: Ph.D. Blanca Villuendas Sabaté  
Course description: With the understanding of dreams as a form of God’s revelation, and a part of the Quranic revelation conveyed in dreams, dream exegesis has played a significant role in Islam from the very beginning. Several hadith collections devote a chapter to dream interpretation (ta’bir al-ru’yā), portraying the importance of this practice for the prophet Muhammad and the Companions, as well as defining the principles that rule it. Religious scholars later codified these principles and a series of dream symbols in dream treatises. The production of dream treatises in Islam is vast, with a number of works that enjoyed a wide circulation over centuries and the constant emergence of new composition. However, by the 20th c., scholarly circles disregarded the transcendence of dreams and today the legacy of Islamic dream treatises is little known or studied, while many of yesterday’s relevant compositions remain unpublished. This course will
offer an overview to this tradition examining the principles from a diachronic perspective, while exploring the nature and genesis of this genre and its interaction with other fields and milieus. It will also concentrate on the analysis of the most relevant dream treatises, through direct readings of both edited and manuscript sources.

**Course title**: Systematische Theologie: History of Islamic Theology and Philosophy  
**Link**: [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e160978](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e160978)  
**Course type**: Lecture  
**Contact hours**: 2  
**Course coordinator**: Prof. Dr. phil. Lejla Demiri  
**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.

**Islamic Religious Education – State Examination**

**Course title**: Arts of the Islamic World during the Middle Ages  
**Link**: [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e161617](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e161617)  
**Course type**: Seminar  
**Contact hours**: 2  
**Course coordinator**: Bilal Badat  
**Course description**  
This course explores the art and architecture of the Islamic world during the Islamic Middle Ages (c. 13th to the early 16th century), examining in particular the iconic monuments and objects (including manuscripts, ceramics, and metalwork) produced in major urban centres during the Seljuq, Ilkhanid, Timurid and Mamluk periods. There is also a focus on the artistic interchanges that transpired between the Islamic world and Europe. The course explores how Islamic art and architecture during this period changed as a result of political, institutional, and religious forces, and also explores the extent to which Islamic art and architecture was affected by sectarian conflict and contemporaneous theological developments. By examining the key objects and monuments of this period in this way, students will develop a critical awareness of the defining features of Islamic art and architecture during the Middle Ages, and develop an understanding of the dynamic forces that shaped their formal and aesthetic qualities. Language of instruction: English

**Course title**: Early Islamic Art and Architecture  
**Link**: [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e161615](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e161615)  
**Course type**: Seminar  
**Contact hours**: 2  
**Course coordinator**: 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 Mongol conquests of the early thirteenth century. 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 the early Islamic polities (namely the Umayyad, Fatimid, Abbasid dynasties), 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. Language of instruction: English

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Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e160779
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Contact hours: 2
Course coordinator: Ph.D. Blanca Villuendas Sabaté
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Course title: Islamic Calligraphy
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e163707
Course type: Seminar
Contact hours: 2
Course coordinator: Bilal Badat
Course description
Wird nachgereicht.

Course title: Islamic Manuscripts
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e160887
Course type: Exercises
Contact hours: 2
Course coordinator: Ph.D. Blanca Villuendas Sabaté
Course description
This course offers 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: Sacred Sound and the Abrahamic Traditions
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e161630
Course type: Seminar
Contact hours: 2
Course title: Systematische Theologie: History of Islamic Theology and Philosophy  
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e160978  
Course type: Lecture  
Contact hours: 2  
Course coordinator: Prof. Dr. phil. Lejla Demiri  
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 (ʿaql), theology and philosophy are some the topics to be covered.
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 Mongol conquests of the early thirteenth century. 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 the early Islamic polities (namely the Umayyad, Fatimid, Abbasid dynasties), 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. Language of instruction: English

**Course title:** Exegesis of Dreams in Islam  
**Link:** [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e160779](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e160779)  
**Course type:** Seminar  
**Contact hours:** 2  
**Course coordinator:** Ph.D. Blanca Villuendas Sabaté  
**Course description**
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**Course title:** Islamic Calligraphy  
**Link:** [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e163707](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e163707)  
**Course type:** Seminar  
**Contact hours:** 2  
**Course coordinator:** Bilal Badat  
**Course description**
Coming soon.

**Course title:** Islamic Manuscripts  
**Link:** [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e160887](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e160887)  
**Course type:** Exercises  
**Contact hours:** 2  
**Course coordinator:** Ph.D. Blanca Villuendas Sabaté  
**Course description**
This course offers 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: Sacred Sound and the Abrahamic Traditions  
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e161630  
Course type: Seminar  
Contact hours: 2  
Course coordinator: apl. Prof. Dr. phil. habil. Stefan Morent, Mujadad Zaman  
Prerequisites  
Reading and discussion in class  
Course description  
This seminar is a collaboration between the Department of Musicology and the Center for Islamic Theology. Recently, having jointly received a fund to explore the theme of "Sacred Sound", the project aims to offer a series of lecture-recitals with international scholars on themes related to sacred sound within the Abrahamic traditions. This seminar runs in conjunction with the project and is themed on ‘Performing Sacred Texts’.

Course title: Systematische Theologie: History of Islamic Theology and Philosophy  
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e160978  
Course type: Lecture  
Contact hours: 2  
Course coordinator: Prof. Dr. phil. Lejla Demiri  
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 (ʿaql), theology and philosophy are some the topics to be covered.

Islamic Theology in the European Context – Master

Course title: Academic English for Islamic Theology  
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e161448  
Course type: Exercises  
Contact hours: 2  
Course coordinator: Mujadad Zaman  
Course description  
This seminar pairs English literature with theological questions. Drawing upon a wide range of English literary sources, our aim to expose students to a breadth of written forms to discuss their consequences for Islamic theology.

Course title: Arts of the Islamic World during the Middle Ages  
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e161617  
Course type: Seminar  
Contact hours: 2  
Course coordinator: Bilal Badat  
Course description  
This course explores the art and architecture of the Islamic world during the Islamic Middle Ages (c. 13th to the early 16th century), examining in particular the iconic monuments and objects (including manuscripts, ceramics, and metalwork) produced in major urban centres during the Seljuq, Ilkhanid, Timurid and Mamluk periods. There is also a focus on the artistic interchanges that transpired between the Islamic world and Europe. The course explores how Islamic art and
architecture during this period changed as a result of political, institutional, and religious forces, and also explores the extent to which Islamic art and architecture was affected by sectarian conflict and contemporaneous theological developments. By examining the key objects and monuments of this period in this way, students will develop a critical awareness of the defining features of Islamic art and architecture during the Middle Ages, and develop an understanding of the dynamic forces that shaped their formal and aesthetic qualities. Language of instruction: English

Course title: Early Islamic Art and Architecture
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e161615
Course type: Seminar
Contact hours: 2
Course coordinator: 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 Mongol conquests of the early thirteenth century. 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 the early Islamic polities (namely the Umayyad, Fatimid, Abbasid dynasties), 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. Language of instruction: English

Course title: Islam and Religious Pluralism - Muslim Perceptions of the Religious “Other”
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e159590
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 religious “Other”, particularly Christians. The questions of salvation, religious diversity and pluralism often appear in his writings. Despite the importance of Nabulusian scholarship for building a theology of compassion, this magisterial figure has not attracted the attention it deserves. The seminar will offer a unique opportunity to discuss Nabulusi’s inclusivist theology, based on a careful reading of primary sources.

Course title: Islam and Religious Pluralism - Muslim Perceptions of the Religious “Other”
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e161008
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 Arabī (d. 638/1240)’s vision of compassion and love. Nabulusi further commented on the works of Abū Hamid al-Ghazzali (d. 505/1111) Abu l-Ḥasan 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 inspired Nabulusi in constructing his views of religious pluralism.

Course title: Islamic Calligraphy  
Link: http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20172e163707  
Course type: Seminar  
Contact hours: 2  
Course coordinator: Bilal Badat  
Course description  
Coming soon