**Interaction: The Qur’an and the Bible: interdependence and independence (10 ECTS)**

In this course the Qur’an will function as our point of departure. We will conduct comparative overviews and analyses between Islam’s main scripture, i.e. the Qur’an, and its closest intertextual co-scriptures, first and foremost Biblical literature in its broadest sense. The inquiries will be defined by the following subjects:

- **Methodological considerations**: why and how to compare in general and in particular (i.e. Qur’an and Biblical literature).
- **Historical context to the comparative enterprise**: epochal framework and regional history.
- **Thematic comparisons between important theological themes** (e.g., creation, covenant, final apocalypse).
- **Protagonistic comparisons and the question of typology** (e.g., İbrahîm/Abraham, İsa/Jesus, Shaytan/Satan).
- **Linguistic, stylistic, and rhetorical comparisons** (e.g., vocabulary, composition, narrative).
- **Ritual comparisons** (e.g. between Qur’ans and Bibles as material-ritual objects; concepts of ritual purity).

The course will swing back and forth between close readings and synthesizing overviews. A red thread throughout the course will be the question of similarity and difference, of interdependence and independence.

**Time period**
Teaching: Week 5-18. There will be a break in week 15 (Easter).

**Responsible teacher and institution**
Thomas Hoffmann, Faculty of Theology, University of Copenhagen

**Registration:**
No later than January 16: E-mail both me (tho@teol.ku.dk) and your local coordinator/tutor.

**Compact seminar**: Copenhagen, last week of March.

**Exam**: Paper to be handed in no later than May 26; those with a fixed exam will receive the question on May 22.

**Learning outcome**
The student will acquire:

- Knowledge of differences and parallelisms between at least two of the three religious traditions pertaining to an important theme within these traditions.
- Skills in analysing and discussing such differences and parallelisms.
- The ability to demonstrate such skills in practice and to communicate such knowledge in writing both academically and to the general public.

**Prerequisites**
The same as for the programme in general.
Form of teaching; course activities

The teaching will combine:

* Compact seminar in Copenhagen (see above for more details).
* Tutorials at your home university.
* Distance learning, with written assignments. E.-tivities on the e.-learning platform CourseSiteses

Required reading

The syllabus will include approximately 1300 pages of secondary scholarly literature and primary texts in translation. Approximately 850 of these pages are defined by the teacher before the beginning of the term. Students doing free exams choose their remaining approximately 450 pages. The teacher will define for the students doing a fixed exam their remaining approximately 450 pages no later than one month before the deadline for submission of the exam paper (cf. article 6.7).

Fixed syllabus


The syllabus below is preliminary and may be subject to minor changes.

- Tryggve Kronholm: "Dependence and Prophetic Originality in the Koran", Orientalia Suecana XXXI-XXXII (1982-83), 47-70
- Gabriel Said Reynolds: “Reading the Qur’ân as homily”, The Qur’ân and Its Biblical
Subtext (Routledge 2010), 231-258


- David Freidenreich: “Holiness and Impurity in the Torah and the Quran: Differences within a Common Typology”, Comparative Islamic Studies, 2010, 5-22


If the student has participated regularly, actively and satisfactorily in a course (cf. article 6.2), she or he may choose between a free and a fixed written examination. A student failing to fulfil these requirements must sit a fixed written exam. In the free written examination, the student writes a paper of between eight and ten pages on a subject, question or material chosen by the student and approved by the responsible teacher. In the fixed written examination, the student is given four days to write a paper of between eight and ten pages on a subject, question or material provided by the responsible teacher.

Preliminary Study Plan for interaction course The Qur’an and the Bible: Introduction to the Qur’an and its Biblical Contexts

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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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| 3   | Thematic comparison: God(s) | Daniel Madigan: “Themes and Topics”, J.D. McAuliffe (ed.), The Cambridge Companion to the Qur’ân (Cambridge UP 2006), 79-95
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<td>3. Resources: Databases, Websites, Journals, Institutions, Projects etc.</td>
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