Text: The Quran, Arabic (10 ECTS)

Course content
The course will provide familiarity with the text of the Quran and skill in the interpretation of
individual passages based on the Arabic text. A certain number of important passages will be studied in
detail. The course will also provide an introduction to current critical scholarship on the Quran.

Time period
Teaching: week 36-50. Allowance will be made for:
a) The compact seminar in Rome for students in their first term late September
b) The compact seminar in Oslo, late September (a break) for students in their third term.

Compact seminar: Lund, November 6-8.

Exam: Paper to be handed in no later than December 22; those with a fixed exam will receive the
question on December 18.

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

Learning outcome
The student will acquire:
* General knowledge about the contents and the language of the Quran.
* Familiarity with current critical scholarship on the text and formation of the Quran.
* Acquaintance with traditions of Quranic interpretation (tafsir) in Islam.
* In-depth familiarity with selected parts of the Quranic text and their significance in Islam.
* The skill to work independently with this type of texts.
* An understanding of and ability to apply scholarly philological method.

Prerequisites
In addition to the general requirements for the program, a minimum of 10 ECTS of Arabic

Form of teaching; course activities
The teaching will combine:
* Compact seminar (see above for more details).
* Distance learning

Required reading
The syllabus will include:
* No more than 30 pages of primary texts in Arabic.
* 1000 pages of secondary scholarly literature and primary texts in translation. Two thirds of this
syllabus are fixed, one third is chosen by the student but subject to approval by the teacher (cf. article
6.7).

Fixed syllabus
Introductory
A. Neuwirth and N. Sinai. “Introduction.” In A. Neuwirth et al. (eds.), The Qur’an in Context:
Historical and Literary Investigations into the Qur’anic Milieu (Leiden: Brill 2010), 1-19.

The Prophet Muhammad
R. Hoyland. “Writing the Biography of the Prophet Muhammad: Problems and Solutions.” History
Rubin, Uri. “Prophets and Prophethood.” In A. Rippin (ed.), The Blackwell Companion to the Qur’an
The Origins of the Quran

The Self-Image of the Quran

The Quran and the Bible

Individual Themes

The Quran and Islamic Law

Women

Purity

Exegesis

Texts from the Qurʾan in Arabic

Examination form
If the student has participated regularly, actively and satisfactorily in a course (cf. article 6.2 in the study plan), she or he may choose between a free and a fixed written examination. A student failing to fulfill 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. Papers written for both the free and the fixed examination must have the following form:
* A translation into English of a passage of primary text in an ancient language.
* A commentary on this text.
* A discussion of a question of relevance to the theme of the course based both on the translated text and on other parts of the syllabus.

Registration for the course
By email to tho@teol.ku.dk no later than August 15.