

Text, Islamic Tradition (10 ECTS)

Course content

The course will provide familiarity with the text of the Qur'ān and skill in the analysis and interpretation of individual passages based on the Arabic text. Throughout the course, the focus on language and rhetoric will be given priority over and above historical contextualization. A number of important passages will be studied in detail. The course will simultaneously provide introduction to current philological scholarship on the Qur'ān. At the end of the course, some introduction to the reading of ḥadīth texts will be provided.

Time period

Teaching: week 36-50. Allowance will be made for Compact seminar in Oslo September 16-20 (a break).

Compact seminar: Lund, November 7-8.

Exam: Paper to be handed in no later than December 20 (question posted December 16)

Responsible teacher and institution

Professor MSO Thomas Hoffmann, Faculty of Theology, University of Copenhagen tho@teol.ku.dk

Learning outcome

The student will acquire:

- Advanced knowledge of an important theme or an important text within one of the three religious traditions.
- Advanced knowledge of the history of scholarship on formative Judaism, Christianity or Islam pertaining to an important theme or text in one of these traditions.
- Skills in analysing, discussing and interpreting primary source texts.
- The skills to communicate the acquired knowledge of the subject matter in writing.
- The competence to develop their own scholarly specialisation and to navigate with confidence in interdisciplinary, complex and unpredictable academic processes in professional and academic settings.
- The competence to actively participate in innovative scholarly work.

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
- Tutorials

Required reading

The syllabus will include:

* No more than 30 pages of primary texts in Arabic.

* Approximately 1000 pages of secondary scholarly literature and primary texts in translation defined by the teacher before the beginning of the term.

Syllabus (subject to minor revisions)

Abbreviations:

- ArQ = Jones, Alan: *Arabic Through the Qur'ān* (The Islamic Texts Society: Cambridge, 2005)
 - ACoDiKA = Ambros, Arne et al., *A Concise Dictionary of Koranic Arabic* (Reichert: Wiesbaden, 2004)
 - EALL = Versteegh, Kees et al. (eds.), *Encyclopedia of Arabic Language and Linguistics* (Brill: Leiden, 2011)
 - QuC = A. Neuwirth et al. (eds.), *The Qur'ān in Context* (Brill: Leiden 2011)
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1. “*wa-dhkurū mā fīhī*”: Remembering and rehearsing the basic grammar

Readings:

- ArQ, “Technical terms [i.e. grammatical terms in English and Arabic]290-295
 - Younes, Munther, “Grammar notes”, *The Routledge Introduction to Qur'anic Arabic* (Routledge: New York, 2013), 252-285
 - ACoDiKA, “Pronouns and Particles”, 319-333
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2. *al-Fātiha*: Introduction to the Qur'an and its grammatical-rhetorical features

Readings:

- Abdel Haleem, M. “Qur'ān”, in EALL, vol. 4, 21-31.
- Talmon, R.: “Grammar and the Qur'an”, in: J.D. McAuliffe (ed.), *Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an* (Brill: Leiden 2001-6), 345-369

Optional readings:

- El-Awa, Salma, “Linguistic Structure”, in Rippin, A. (ed.), *The Blackwell Companion to the Qur'an* (Blackwell: Malden, 2006), 53-72
 - Neuwirth, A.: “Structural, linguistic, and literary features”, in McAuliffe, J.D. (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to the Qur'an* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2007),97-112
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3. “*Innā ’anzalnāhu qur’ānan ’arabiyyan*“: Semantics, origin, and status of qur’anic Arabic

Readings:

- Zammit, Martin R.: *A Comparative Lexical Study of Qur’anic Arabic* (Brill, Leiden 2002), 29-63, 586-590
 - Pennacchio, Catherine: Lexical borrowing in the Qur’an. The Problematic Aspects of Arthur Jeffery’s List”, *Bulletin du Centre de recherche français à Jérusalem* 22, 2011, 1-19.
 - Retsö, Jan: “Arabs and Arabic in the Age of the Prophet”, in: *QuC*, 281-292
 - Saleh, Walid, “The Etymological Fallacy”, in: A. Neuwirth et al. (eds.), *The Qur’ân in Context* (Brill: Leiden 2011), 625-647.
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4. “*wa-mā huwa bi-qawli shā’irin*“: Poetry, Oracular Speech, and Prophecy

Readings:

- Ghassan el Masri: “Ma’sal: What the Ṭalal Would Tell Us”, in: A. Neuwirth & M.A. Sells (eds.), *Qur’anic Studies Today* (Routledge: London, 2016) 249-261
- Bauer, Thomas: „Relevance of Early Arabic Poetry for Qur’anic Studies“, in: A. Neuwirth et al. (eds.), *The Qur’ân in Context* (Brill: Leiden 2011), 699-732
- Zwettler, Michael: “A Mantic Manifesto”, James Kugel (ed.) *Poetry and Prophecy: The Beginnings of a Literary Tradition* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1990), 75-119, 205-231.
- Stewart, Devin: “Rhymed prose” , in: J.D. McAuliffe (ed.), *Encyclopaedia of the Qur’an* (Brill: Leiden 2001-6), 476-484

Optional reading:

- EALL/Versteegh, K. “Poetic Koine”
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5. “*Yā’ Ayyuhā...*“: Rhetorical-Grammatical Features: The Vocative, Energetic, Oaths, and Exclamations

Readings:

- Gwynne, Rosalind Ward: “Patterns of Address”, in: A. Rippin (ed.), *The Blackwell Companion to the Qur’an* (Blackwell, Malden 2006), 73-87.
- Neuwirth, A.: “Images and metaphors in the introductory sections of the Meccan sūras”, in: G.R. Hawting et al. (eds.) *Approaches to the Qur’an* (Routledge: London 1993).
- ArQ, “The Vocative”, 180-183
- ArQ, “The Energetic; Oaths and Exclamations”, 255-263

6. “What’s in a Name?”: Proper Names

Readings:

- Andrew Rippin: “Muhammad in the Qur’an”, in H. Motzki (ed.), *The Biography of Muhammad* (Brill: Leiden 2000), 298-309
- ACoDiKA, “Proper names”, 305-315
- Ibid. “Nouns and noun-phrases referring to God”, 347-258
- Dahlgren, Sven-Olof: “Word Order and Topicality in the Qur’an”, 20-35

Optional readings:

- Kiltz; David: “The Relationship between Arabic Allâh and Syriac Allâhâ”, , *Der Islam* Bd. 88, 2012, 33-50
- Welch, A.T.: “Muhammad’s Understanding of Himself: The Koranic Data”, in: R.C. Hovannisian & V. Speros (eds.), *Islam’s Understanding of Itself* (Undena Publications: Malibu 1982), 15-52

7. : “La‘alla”: Perhaps and Exceptives

Readings:

- ArC, “More about an, ‘asa and la‘alla”, 242-247
- ArC, “Exceptive Sentences with illā”, 167-171

Optional

Bernards, Monique, “Istiṭna”, in Versteegh, Kees et al. (eds.), *Encyclopedia of Arabic Language and Linguistics* (Brill: Leiden, 2011), 451-454

8. “wa-law shā’a rabbuka”: The Qur’an on the condition

Readings:

- ArC, 227-239
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9. “wa-yadrību llāhu l-’amthāla li-n-nāsi”: Similes, metaphors, and phraseology

Readings:

- Beaumont, D.: “Simile”, in McAuliffe, J.D. (ed.), *Encyclopaedia of the Qur’an* (Leiden: Brill, 2001-6),
- Mir, Mustansir: *Verbal Idioms of the Qur’an* (U of Michigan: Ann Arbor, 1989), 1-24
- EALL/Simon, Udo: “Isti‘ara”, 441-447
- EALL/Simon, Udo: “Majāz”, 116-123,
- EALL/Shivtiel, Avihai: “Phraseology”, 628-634

10. “...*wa-rattili l-qur’āna tartīlan*”: Sacred Soundscapes and Pious Paronomasia

Readings:

- Sells, Michael. “Sound, Spirit, and Gender”, *Approaching the Qur’an. The Early Revelations* (Ashland: White Cloud Press, 1999), 199-223.
- Rippin, A. “The Poetics of Qur’anic Punning”, *BSOAS* 57, no. 1, 1994, 193-207.

Optional reading:

- EALL/Shivtiel, A.: “Paronomasia”, 538-541

Examination form

The student is given four days to write a paper of between eight and ten pages in length on a subject, question or material chosen by the teacher. To qualify for the exam the students must complete 80% of the e-learning assignments.

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 Qur’ānic Arabic.
- * 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.