



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

GUIDED COURSE IN QUR'ANIC EXEGESIS - 16129

Last update 02-03-2014

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Arabic Language and Literature

Academic year: 2

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Michal Levi

Coordinator Email: mslevi@mscc.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Thursday 14.00-15.00

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Michal Levi

Course/Module description:

The course is divided into two parts:

- 1) In the first semester a particular portion of the Quran is read in detail with the teacher, together with three classical commentaries, viz. al-Tabari, al-Nasafi and al-Jalalayn. The Quranic text is often unclear without further exegesis and during the course the class comes to grips with differences of interpretation between the three commentaries mentioned. Students are shown how approaches to the sacred text differ, learn the technical terminology of Islamic tradition and experience at first hand the exegetical possibilities involved.
- 2) In the second semester students work on their own, with the teacher's guidance, on an individual basis. Each student is given a different section of Quran which he must study along the lines expounded in the first semester, i.e. translate the Quranic text in the light of the three above-mentioned classical commentators, translate the selections from the commentators, and then provide a comparison between them. At the end of the year, each student has to submit the written results of his research, i.e. text and translation of all of the exegetical material, explanation of all noteworthy points, identification of figures mentioned and comparison among the three exegetes.

Course/Module aims:

The major aim of this course is the development of intellectual skills and the transmission of information. Other important objectives are familiarity with Quranic language as well as exegetical language and terminology, research skills and research writing skills.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Students learn to read and analyze Quran verses with the aid of dictionaries and other references; to identify exegetical problems; to read and understand the exegetical material; to read and understand additional reference literature from the Quranic sciences such as books of qira'at and other commentaries.

Attendance requirements(%):

93

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The most prominent method used

in the Quranic Exegesis course is class discussion of passages of Quran and Exegesis prepared by all students; next in importance is one-on-one discussion between the student and teacher of individually chosen primary source and guidance in writing of a seminar paper following the accepted format and convention of scientific writing in this field.

Course/Module Content:

- 1. Interpretation of the Quran-Guidelines*
- 2.Surat al Hadid, 12-14 with the commentary of al-Jalalayn.*
- 3. .Surat al Hadid, 12-14 with the commentary of al-Tabari.*
- 4.Surat al Hadid, 12-14 with the commentary of al-Nasafi.*
- 5.Comparison between the three classical commentaries.*

Required Reading:

*In their written work students are required for persons mentioned to produce precise references to the traditional Islamic biographical literature (al-Asqala:ni: etc.) and for other questions to the Encyclopaedia of Islam.
For matters of language (frequent and crucial in exegesis) reference must be made to the Grammar of W. Wright or some similarly authoritative source.*

- 1. Cook, Michael. The Quran, a very short introduction.*
- 2. Encyclopedia of the Quran – electronic version available on university library website; numerous enlightening and interesting entries on Quranic topics.*
- 3. Encyclopedia of Islam (2nd and 3rd editions) – electronic version available on university library website; numerous enlightening and interesting entries on Islam and the Quran*

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

*End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 20 %
Project work 80 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %*

Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: