

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

QUR'AN WITH THE COMMENTARY OF AL-JALALYN - 16350

Last update 23-01-2014

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Arabic Language and Literature

Academic year: 2

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Meir Bar Asher

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

Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesday 13:30-14:00

Teaching Staff:

Prof Meir Bar-Asher

Course/Module description:

This course aims to develop the students' acquaintance with the structure, style, and themes of the Qur'ān. Additionally, the students will be introduced to "Tafsīr al-Jalālayn", a Qur'ān commentary composed by Jalāl al-Dīn al-Maḥallī (d. 864/1459), and completed by his student Jalāl al-Dīn al-Suyūṭī (d. 911/1505). Relevant texts from additional exegetical works on the Qur'ān by well-known commentators will be discussed as well, among them Muqātil b. Sulaymān, al-Ṭabarī, al-Zamakhsharī, al-Bayḍāwī, al-Qurṭubī, etc. The 19th Sūra (Sūrat Maryam) and especially the story of the birth of Yaḥyā (John the Baptist) and 'Īsā (Jesus) will be the focus of our study. Sūrat Maryam will be read in comparison with parallel texts in the Qur'ān (the 3rd Sūra [Āl 'Imrān]) and in additional sources such as the Gospel of Luke and "The Gospel of Pseudo-Matthew", many stories and details of which are echoed in the Qur'ān.

Course/Module aims:

During this course, the students will learn about the structure, style, and themes of the Qur'ān. Additionally, the students will be introduced to "Tafsīr al-Jalālayn", a Qur'ān commentary composed by Jalāl al-Dīn al-Maḥallī (d. 864/1459), and completed by his student Jalāl al-Dīn al-Suyūṭī (d. 911/1505).

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

- 1. Acquaintance with the various aspects of the Qur'ān and its exegesis, by reading it in comparison with The Bible, The New Testament, and additional relevant sources.*
- 2. Acquaintance with the relevant secondary literature and additional resources available both printed and online.*

Attendance requirements(%):

Students may miss no more than two meetings during the semester.

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: This course will focus on reading the Arabic sources. Special attention will be given to the full vocalization of the texts, the various names and terms in them, and their interpretation in the correct context of literature and exegesis. The students will be required to prepare the texts in advance, using dictionaries and additional reference works which will be

introduced in class. Furthermore, the students will be required to be familiar with the relevant secondary literature, which will be partially discussed in class

Course/Module Content:

The 19th Sūra (Sūrat Maryam) and especially the story of the birth of Yaḥyā (John the Baptist) and ʿĪsā (Jesus) will be the focus of our study. Sūrat Maryam will be read in comparison with parallel texts in the Qurʾān (the 3rd Sūra [Āl ʿImrān]) and in additional sources such as the Gospel of Luke and “The Gospel of Pseudo-Matthew”, whose stories and details echo in the Qurʾān. Following this, verse 157 of the 4th Sūra (al-Nisāʾ), which negates the crucifixion of Jesus, will be discussed, on the basis of Muslim exegesis and the doctrine of Docetism, held by Gnostic and Christian groups since the beginning of Christianity. After reading the verses about Christianity, we will discuss the verses about Abraham from the same Sūra, and analyze them in their broader biblical context. The semester will end with reading the 80th Sūra (ʿAbasa), alongside Tafsīr al-Jalālayn and Jawāmiʿ al-Jāmiʿ by the well-known Shīʿī commentator Abū ʿAlī l-Faḍl b. al-Ḥasan al-Ṭibrisī.

Required Reading:

We will mostly read from Tafsīr al-Jalālayn. Articles and additional reading material will appear on the course website (moodle).

Additional Reading Material:

- 1) Muhammad Ali Amir-Moezzi (editor), *Dictionnaire du Coran*, ed. Paris 2007, 982 pp.
- 2) J.D. McAuliff (editor), *Encyclopaedia of the Qurʾān*, Leiden-Boston-Köln, 2001-2006, 5 volumes + 1 volume (index).
- 3) R. Bell & W.M.Watt, *Introduction to the Qurʾān*, Edinburgh 1953.
- 4) M. Cook, *The Koran: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford 2000.
- 5) A. Jeffery, *The Foreign Vocabulary of the Qurʾān*, Baroda 1938.
- 6) -----, *Materials for the History of the Text of the Qurʾān*, Leiden 1937.

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10) I. Goldziher, *Die Richtungen der islamischen Koransauslegung*, Leiden 1920

11) H. Gätje, *The Qurʾān and its Exegesis: Selected Texts with Classical and Modern*

Muslim Interpretations, translated and edited by A.T.Welch, London 1976.

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Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 65 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 15 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 20 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: