SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC SESSION 2015-2016

RS400A THE IMAGE OF JESUS IN THE QUR'ĀN AND ISLAMIC TRADITION

DR502P ʿĪsā: The Islamic Image of Jesus 2015-2016

30 credits  11 weeks

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM

Dr. Zohar Hadromi-Allouche
King’s College KCG17
Office hours by appointment
Tel.: 01224-27-3112
Email: zohar@abdn.ac.uk

Dr. Jutta Leonhardt-Balzer
King’s College KCS 12
Office hours by appointment
Tel.: 01224-27-3248
Email: j.leonhardt-balzer@abdn.ac.uk
Discipline Administration:
Mrs Claire Hargaden
50-52 College Bounds
Room CB001
01224 272366
divrs@abdn.ac.uk

TIMETABLE
Tuesday 3pm – 4pm Meston, MT159
Friday 10am – 12noon King’s College, KCT04

Students can view their university timetable at
http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course we will discuss the biography and characterisation of Jesus, a major Muslim prophet and the expected mahdī (Islamic messiah). The course will look at the existing sources for this biography and the problems that they present to modern scholars. It will examine in comparable detail possible Christian origins of this figure. Through a comparative discussion of the main episodes in the life of Jesus according to Islam and Christianity, we will learn of the various ways for understanding his character. The course will also discuss the status of Jesus against other prophets in Islam, especially Muhammad, and against the Qur’an.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the course students will have

1. A detailed knowledge of the life of Jesus according to Muslim sources.
2. A good knowledge of available Muslim sources for the life of Jesus and how to use them.
3. A good knowledge of the Christian origins of the Muslim image of Jesus.
The course aims are:

- To introduce students to, and familiarise them with the main episodes in the life of the Jesus according to Islam.
- To introduce students to, and familiarise them with the construction of Jesus' image in Islam.
- To introduce students to, and familiarise them with Muslim sources for the study of Jesus' life.
- To introduce students to, and familiarise them with Christian sources for the Muslim traditions about Jesus.

**LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week / Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assessment deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/ 14–18 Sep 2015</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/ 21–25 Sep 2015</td>
<td>Biography and sources - NT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/ 28 Sep–02 Oct 2015</td>
<td>Biography and sources - Islam</td>
<td>Quiz 10% 02.10.2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/ 05–09 Oct 2015</td>
<td>Jesus as word and spirit of God - NT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 12–16 Oct 2015</td>
<td>Jesus as word and spirit of God - Islam</td>
<td>Essay topic, ToC and initial 10% bibliography 16.10.2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/ 19–23 Oct 2015</td>
<td>Jesus as the Messiah - NT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/ 26–30 Oct 2015</td>
<td>Jesus as the Messiah - Islam</td>
<td>The 2 texts (unmarked) 30.10.2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/ 02–06 Nov 2015</td>
<td>Jesus as the performer of miracles and exorcism - NT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/ 09–13 Nov 2015</td>
<td>Jesus as the performer of miracles and exorcism - Islam</td>
<td>Introduction 10% 13.11.2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/ 16–20 Nov 2015</td>
<td>Jesus and Muhammad - NT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/ 23–27 Nov 2015</td>
<td>Jesus and Muhammad - Islam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13/ 07–11 Dec 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td>Essay 60% 10.12.2015 3pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
READING LIST

Week 1: Introduction

At the beginning of the course the students should have read

a. The Gospel of Mark


Week 2: Biography and sources – NT

The New Testament – in any version


Week 3: Biography and sources – Islam

Secondary:


**Primary:**

Q 112 (sūrat al-Ṣamad)

Commentaries to the Qur'ān:


The above (and more) commentaries are available from:

http://www.altafsir.com/Tafasir.asp?tMadhNo=0&tTafsirNo=74&tSoraNo=1&tAyahNo=1&tDisplay=yes&UserProfile=0&LanguageId=2


Collections of stories of the prophets:


Week 4: Jesus as the word and spirit of God - NT

Texts to read: Gospel of John

Matthew 18.19-21

Borgen, Peder, *Logos was the true light, and other essays on the Gospel of John*, [Trondheim, Norway] : Tapir, 1983. (226.504 Bor)


Week 5: Jesus as the word and spirit of God – Islam

Secondary:

Leirvik, *Images of Jesus Christ in Islam*, ch. 2-3. Online access


Siddiqui, Mona. *Christians, Muslims and Jesus*. Yale University Press. *Floor 7 261.27 SID*


John 14:16; Q 61 (sūrat al-Ṣaff):6

Q 97


For the following verses also prepare the commentaries: 4:171; 61:6

The Gospel of John, ch. 1; 14:16-17.

Khalidi, *The Muslim Jesus*, pp. 58-61; 74-75; 96-97; 108-109; 122-123; 142-145; 176-191; 198-199; 202-209. *Floor 7 (297.2465 MUS )*

Commentaries to the Qur’ān:

3. Wāḥidī (al-), *Asbāb al-Nuzūl*.
4. Tustarī (al-), *Tafsīr al-Tustarī*.

All the above commentaries are available from:

http://www.altafsir.com/Tafasir.asp?tMadhNo=0&tTafsirNo=74&tSoraNo=1&tAyahNo=1&tDisplay=yes&UserProfile=0&LanguageId=2

Kisā’i (al-), *Tales of the Prophets: Qiṣṣa al-Anbiyā’*. *Floor 7 (297.18 KIS)*

Ibn Kathīr, *Stories of the Prophets*.

Tha’labī (al-), ‘Arā’īs al-majālīs fī qiṣṣa al-anbiyā’, or *Lives of the prophets*,

http://site.ebrary.com/lib/aberdeenuniv/Doc?id=10090603

Ṭabarī, *The children of Israel*. *Floor 7 (297.63 TAB )*

Thomas, David, ed. and trans. *Early Muslim Polemic against Christianity: Abu*

**Week 6: Jesus as the Messiah – NT**


Siddiqui, Mona,  *Christians, Muslims, and Jesus*, New Haven ; London : Yale University Press, c2013. (261.27 SID)

**Week 7: Jesus as the Messiah - Islam**

**Secondary:**


Reynolds, Gabriel Said. “The Muslim Jesus: Dead or Alive?” *Bulletin of the
Primary:

Q 93 (sūrat al-ḍuḥā); Psalm 22; Matthew 27:27–53.


"The Arrest of Jesus in Islamic Sources" handout, available from MyAberdeen.

Khalidi, The Muslim Jesus. Floor 7 (297.2465 MUS)

Commentaries to the Qur’ān:


3. Wāḥidī (al-), Asbāb al-Nuzūl.

4. Tustarī (al-), Tafsīr al-Tustarī.

All the above commentaries are available from:

http://www.altafsir.com/Tafasir.asp?MadhNo=0&tTafsirNo=74&tSoraNo=1&tAyahNo=1&tDisplay=yes&UserProfile=0&LanguageId=2

Kisā’i (al-), Tales of the Prophets: Qīṣāṣ al-Anbiyā’, pp. 326–336. Floor

7 (297.18 KIS)


Ṭabarī, *The children of Israel*. Floor 7 (297.63 TAB)

**Week 8: Jesus as the performer of miracles and exorcism – NT**

**Primary sources:**

Miracle stories in NT:

- In Mark spread over chapters 2-11
- In John, spread over 2-12

Infancy Gospel of Thomas, especially the Greek fragments, available on [www.earlychristianwritings.com/infancythomas.html](http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/infancythomas.html)

**Secondary literature:**


Dunn, James D.G., and McKnight, Scot (eds), *The historical Jesus in recent research* [electronic resource], Winona Lake, Ind. : Eisenbrauns, 2005.


**Week 9: Jesus as the performer of miracles and exorcism – Islam**

**Secondary:**


Leirvik, *Images of Jesus Christ in Islam*, pp. 59-61. Online access


**Primary**

Infancy Gospel of Thomas, available on

www.earlychristianwritings.com/infancythomas.html


Khalidi, *The Muslim Jesus*, traditions 162, 247. *Floor 7 (297.2465 MUS)*

Commentaries to the Qur'ān:
3. Wāḥidī (al-), Asbāb al-Nuzūl.
4. Tustarī (al-), Tafsīr al-Tustarī.

All the above commentaries are available from:
http://www.altafsir.com/Tafasir.asp?tMadhNo=0&tTafsirNo=74&tSoraNo=1&tAyahNo=1&tDisplay=yes&UserProfile=0&LanguageId=2

Kisā’i (al-), Tales of the Prophets: Qiṣaṣ al-Anbiyā’. Floor 7 (297.18 KIS)

Ibn Kathīr, Stories of the Prophets.

Tha’labī (al-), 'Arā'is al-majālis fī qiṣaṣ al-anbiyā’, or Lives of the prophets,
http://site.ebrary.com/lib/aberdeenuniv/Doc?id=10090603

Ṭabarī, The children of Israel. Floor 7 (297.63 TAB)

**Week 10: Jesus and Muhammad –NT**

**Primary sources**

Gen 2-3


Early Christian statements about Christ in:


**Secondary literature**

Aus, Roger David, Matthew 1-2 and the virginal conception : in light of Palestinian and Hellenistic Judaic traditions on the birth of Israel’s first
Week 11: Jesus and Muhammad – Islam

Secondary:


Peters, F. E. *Jesus and Muhammad: Parallel Tracks, Parallel Lives*. OUP USA, 2011. *Floor 7 (200.922 PET)*


Williams, Rebecca R. *Muhammad and the supernatural : medieval Arab views / Rebecca R. Williams*. Abingdon, Oxon ; N.Y. [N.Y.] : Routledge, 2013. *Floor 7 (297.63 WIL)*


Primary:
A handout on MyAberdeen: "Muhammad-Jesus reports".

John 8:59


.Floor 7 (297 Muh M ); also available in full version to download from:  

https://archive.org/details/TheLifeOfMohammedGuillaume

Ibn Kathīr, Imām Abū al-Fidāʾ Ismāʿīl. The Life of the Prophet Muhammad.  


Khalidi, The Muslim Jesus.  .Floor 7 (297.2465 MUS )

The Qurʾān - in any translation

Commentaries to the Qurʾān:

3. Wāḥidī (al-), Asbāb al-Nuzūl .
4. Tustārī (al-), Tafsīr al-Tustārī .

All the above commentaries are available from:  

http://www.altafsir.com/Tafasir.asp?tMadhNo=0&tTafsirNo=74&tSoraNo=1&tAyahNo=1&tDisplay=yes&UserProfile=0&LanguageId=2

Kisāʾi (al-), Tales of the Prophets: Qiṣaṣ al-Anbiyāʾ.  .Floor 7 (297.18 KIS)

Ibn Kathīr, Stories of the Prophets.

Tha'labī (al-), 'Arāʾis al-majālis fi qiṣaṣ al-anbiyāʾ, or Lives of the prophets,  

http://site.ebrary.com/lib/aberdeenuniv/Doc?id=10090603

Ṭabarī, The children of Israel.  .Floor 7 (297.63 TAB )
ASSESSMENT

PLEASE NOTE: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

Level 4:
- 1 quiz (10%)
- Continuous assessment (30%) –
  - Essay topic, ToC and initial bibliography (10%);
  - Introduction (10%);
  - Class presentation (10%)
- 1 essay of 3500 words (60%).

Level 5:
- 1 quiz (10%)
- Continuous assessment (30%) –
  - Essay topic, ToC and initial bibliography (10%);
  - Introduction (10%);
  - Class presentation (10%)
- 1 essay of 4500 words (60%).

Click to view the University Level Descriptors (ANNEX A).
Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B).

QUIZ (10% of final mark)
- A 1-hour quiz will take place on Friday 02 October 2015.
- The quiz will check knowledge of the basic data included in the required reading for week 1 (The Gospel of Mark; Robinson, "Jesus," from the Encyclopaedia of the Qurʾān; Lings, Muhammad).
- It will account for 10% of the course mark.
- The purpose of the quiz is to make sure all students have reasonable familiarity with the traditional biographies of Jesus and Muḥammad (in
terms of events, dates, names, places chronology) before we start working in depth on specific themes.

PRESENTATION

- Each student will give a 10-minute presentation on 01.12.2015 or 04.12.2015.
- The presentation will briefly present the essay topic and texts; interim findings; and the challenges that the texts present you with.
- It will account for 10% of final mark.
- **The aim of this presentation** is to  
  (a) enable students to present the interim results of their work;  
  (b) receive helpful insights from their peers; and  
  (c) practice skills of talking to an audience and presenting one's research.

ESSAYS

- One essay is required in the course. It is due by Thursday 10 December 2015, 3PM.  
  - The essay should be 3500 words in length at level 4 and 4500 words at level 5 (including footnotes, but excluding bibliography).  
  - It will account for 60% of the course mark.  
  - **The purpose of this essay** is to give students an opportunity to  
    a) Gain in-depth knowledge of a specific theme in regards to the image of Jesus/ 'Īsā as a Muslim character.  
    b) Do hands-on research work with primary sources of classical Islam.  
    c) Acquire research methodology.  
    d) Gain tools for independent research.

ESSAY TOPIC

Explore one of the course's themes in regards to the Muslim Jesus.
A. **Choose a theme** regarding the image of Jesus in Islam.

The *second primary source* can be either a Christian source (e.g., the Bible; the Infancy Gospel of Thomas), or a Muslim source (stories of the prophets literature; historiography; etc.).

*The Essay topic, ToC and initial bibliography (10–12 sources) are due by Friday 16 October 2015.

B. **Identify 2 different primary texts**, which refer to the chosen theme. The first primary source should be taken from the Qur'ān.

The second primary source should be *either*

- A Christian source (e.g., the Bible, the Gospel of Thomas; etc.)
  
  Or

- An Islamic sources (e.g., Stories of the Prophets literature, historiography; etc.).

*The two texts are due by Friday 30 October 2015.

C. **Discuss the chosen theme within these 2 texts.**

The discussion should include all of the following elements:

a. **The Qur'ānic context**: a discussion of the chosen theme in the context of the Qur'ān. This discussion should make use of relevant commentary literature (tafsīr) for the chosen verse(s); as well as of secondary literature.

  — The discussion should indicate to how the theme is expressed in the Qur'ān, how is it regarded, and how the Muslim commentators treat it in their exegesis (tafsīr). Names, terms (e.g, al-masīḥ) and any other motif that you find interesting should be explained (secondary literature can help).

  — The discussion should be preceded by a short reference to the commentary sources being used (e.g., when the authors lived, their religious denomination within Islam, etc.).
b. **A comparative context:** a comparison between how the chosen theme is presented in the Qur‘ān on the one hand, and in the second primary text on the other.

— Point out and discuss the similarities/differences between your main text and other chosen text. Secondary literature might be helpful here, either with direct arguments or as a source of inspiration.

— The discussion should be preceded by a short reference to the source in which the second text is found (e.g., if it is found in Tales of the Prophets collection, say something about this genre, and in what context within that book this specific text appears).

c. **Secondary literature:** in addition to primary sources, the discussion must also make use of secondary (academic scholarly) sources. A good starting point will be the Encyclopaedia of the Qur‘ān (entries about Jesus and Mary, with references to other entries); The Encyclopaedia of; the reading list for this course; the library catalogue; ALTA and JSTOR databases; etc.

**The essay structure** should thus be:

**Introduction** (±250 words): present the chosen theme, Qur‘ānic text (sūras and context) and commentaries to the Qur‘ān (sources: genre and author). Include the text of the verses (the verses will not count towards the word count of the essay)

**Discussion:** Discuss the presentation of the theme in the relevant Qur‘ānic verses and the commentaries to these verses. Where applicable, identify and discuss names, terms, and motifs in the text.

Compare to the other primary text in terms of how the theme is presented in each text. Add additional insights, if any, suggested by secondary literature. Include the text of the second primary text (this text will not count towards the word count of the essay)

**Conclusions:** What did the analysis reveal (what was not obvious through literal reading of the text alone).
ASSESSMENT DEADLINES

- The quiz will take place on Friday 02 October 2015.
- The Essay topic, ToC and initial bibliography are due by Friday 16 October 2015.
- The 2 texts (unmarked) are due by Friday 30 October 2015.
- The Introduction is due by Friday 13 November 2015.
- The presentation dates are 01 December 2015 or 04 December 2015.
- The essay is due by Thursday 10 December 2015, 3PM.

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS
Submit one paper copy to the drop boxes in CB008 in 50-52 College Bounds and one electronic copy to Turnitin via MyAberdeen. Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date.

Please note: Failure to submit both to Turnitin, and also one identical hard copy with the Turnitin receipt attached will result in a deduction of marks. Failure to submit to Turnitin will result in a zero mark.

RESIT INFORMATION
There is no resit at level 4.

At level 5 the resit is 100% essay.

Access to the resit which is provisional on:

- All submitted coursework having been submitted and graded at CAS 6 or higher.
- Student having a valid Class Certificate. Students with C7’s are not eligible for resits.