**PhD-906** **Methodological Studies in Christian-Muslim Relations**

### Fall Semester 2023

**18-22 September**

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Budd Building, Seminar Room

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This required fall seminar will introduce PhD students to the methods of religious studies, focusing particularly on Christian and Muslim interactions. Students will examine the scholarly works that have contributed various perspectives on the study of interactions through a close reading of the methods and theories of selected texts.

**Course Format:**

This course is an intensive format for the week of September 18-22. Follow up sessions will be scheduled during the remainder of the semester, has a hybrid course (either in person or synchronously online).

**Learning Outcomes:**

Students will:

1. analyze the works of several Muslim and Christian authors and their intellectual interactions,
2. evaluate the different methods of scholarly research, and
3. develop the habit of scholarly conversation in a PhD cohort.

**Required reading:**

Siddiqui, Mona. *The Routledge Reader in Christian-Muslim Relations.* New York: Routledge, 2013.

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**In addition,** student should have read the following three studies for the follow up sessions:

Bulliet, Richard W. *Conversion to Islam in the Medieval Period: An essay in Quantitative History.* Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1979.

Goitein, Shelomo Dov, and Gustave E. von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies. *A Mediterranean Society: The Jewish Communities of the Arab World As Portrayed in the Documents of the Cairo Geniza*. Vol. 1. Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1967.

Said, Edward. *Orientalism.* New York: Vintage Books, 1979.

**Assignments:**

1. Attend the intensive session in person 18-22 September.
2. Read and be prepared to discuss the assigned texts prior to arrival. **Students should have prepared a 500-word analysis of each of the six (6) assigned chapters of the *Routledge Reader***.
3. Read and be ready to engage in a discussion on the 3 research projects by Bulliet, Goitein, and Said for the follow up hybrid sessions.
4. Actively engage with the PhD cohort by providing critical responses to the research of classmates.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Session 1: 18 September, 9:00-12:00: Overview of the week and methods in the study of Christian-Muslim relations**

**Session 2: 18 September, 2:00-5:00: John of Damascus**, 18-32

**Session 3: 19 September, 9:00-12:00: ‘Abd al-Jabbar,** 98-111

**Session 4: 19 September, 2:00-5:00: Kraemer**, 163-175

**Session 5: 20 September, 9:00-12:00: Ayoub,** 176-197

**Session 6: 20 September, 2:00-5:00: Meeting with Advisor and Literature Review work**

**Session 7: 21 September, 9:00-12:00: Küng,** 242-255

**Session 8: 21 September, 2:00-5:00: Siddiqui,** 224-248

**Session 9: 22 September, 9:00-12:00:** **Wrap up session**

**Follow up Fall Semester Sessions**

**Times and Dates** (TBD during the Intensive Week)

These final class sessions will take place following the intensive week, as hybrid sessions (either in person or via Zoom). These sessions will provide examples of several important research projects and their methodological questions and challenges. Dr. Grafton will present on the topic and then open up for class discussion. Students will be expected to have read and be ready to contribute to the discussion.

**Session 10: Research in social history** – Date TBD

Students will be introduced to the reference materials in Islamic Studies, and some problems and debates in the study of Islamic history.

**Required Reading:** Bulliet, Richard W. *Conversion to Islam in the Medieval Period: An essay in Quantitative History.* Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1979.

**Session 11: Research in material culture** – Date TBD

Students will be introduced to the important research of the Cairo Geniza and its effect on our understanding of medieval relations.

**Required Reading:** Goitein, Shelomo Dov, and Gustave E. von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies. *A Mediterranean Society: The Jewish Communities of the Arab World As Portrayed in the Documents of the Cairo Geniza*. Vol. 1. Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1967. (Introduction and Chapter 1 only)

**Session 12: Orientalism and Postcolonial Theory** – Date TBD

In this session, students will examine an important methodological theory that has affected all academic fields in the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

**Required reading:** Said, Edward. *Orientalism.* New York: Vintage Books, 1979. (Introduction and Chapter 1 only)