

UNIVERSITY CERTIFICATE IN ISLAMIC-CHRISTIAN INITIAL CULTURE

Main Language of Instruction:

French ☐ English ☐ Arabic ☒

Campus Where the Program Is Offered: CSH

OBJECTIVES

This program introduces the beliefs, traditions, and historical development of Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. It examines the major schools of thought and denominations within these three monotheistic religions and provides a foundation for the study and practice of interfaith dialogue. The course is also open to master's students in Muslim-Christian Relations.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (COMPETENCIES)

- Identify the fundamental elements of faith in Christianity and Islam.
- Identify the similarities and differences between Christianity and Islam, including their various schools of thought, within a comparative religious and historical framework.
- Examine contentious issues critically and address them in ways that foster peaceful coexistence.
- Approach Islamic-Christian studies from a renewed perspective that promotes a culture of justice and peace.
- Adopt perspectives that strengthens and advance Islamic-Christian dialogue.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must hold the Lebanese Baccalaureate or its officially recognized equivalent, as determined by the Equivalence Committee of the Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

21 Credits: Required Courses (21 Credits)

Required Courses (21 Cr.)

The Holy Quran and its Compilation (3 Cr.), The Bible and its Writing (3 Cr.), Principal Themes of Islamic History (3 Cr.), Principal Themes in Christian History (3 Cr.), Fundamentals of Islamic Doctrine (3 Cr.), Introduction to Christian Doctrine – Classical Christian Civilization (3 Cr.), Training in Islamic-Christian Dialogue (Communication and Dialogue Techniques) (3 Cr.).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

017RCORL2	The Holy Quran and its Compilation	3 Cr.
-----------	------------------------------------	-------

This course introduces the Qur'an by examining its definition, names, attributes, language, revelation, and transmission. It explores the concepts of *inzāl* and *tanzīl*, the occasions of revelation (*asbāb al-nuzūl*), studies of the verse and the *sūrah*, the first and last revealed verses and *sūrahs*, and the Meccan and Medinan revelations. The course then focuses on the preservation and codification of the Qur'an. It studies memorization during the Prophet's lifetime, the concept of *mutawātir* transmission, and the recording of Qur'anic revelations during the Prophet's time, including its scope and characteristics. It also traces the stages through which the Qur'an was collected into a written codex after the Prophet's death, culminating in the standardization of the text during the caliphate of 'Uthmān ibn 'Affān. Attention is given to the chronology, motives, methods, and characteristics of each stage, the circulation of early codices, and debates concerning the survival of original 'Alid or 'Uthmānic manuscripts.

The course critically evaluates historical reports concerning the collection of the Qur'an and examines the development of the Arabic script used in early Qur'anic writing. It studies the scripts employed by the Companions and in the 'Uthmānic codex, analyzes the features of Qur'anic orthography, and considers the debate over whether the 'Uthmānic orthography is divinely prescribed (*tawqīfī*) or the product of human convention.

Further topics include the scripts found in the earliest Qur'anic manuscripts, the characteristics of 'Uthmānic orthography, and later developments such as vowelization, diacritical marking, and other orthographic refinements. Finally, the course surveys non-Islamic theological, historical, and critical approaches to Qur'anic manuscripts and the codification process, with particular attention to revisionist scholarship and the historical context in which Islam emerged.

017RBIBL2	The Bible and its Writing	3 Cr.
------------------	----------------------------------	--------------

This course introduces the Bible in the Christian tradition as a collection of writings that form a unified theological narrative centered on the covenant of love between God and humanity. It examines how these texts were composed over time, across different historical periods and geographical contexts, and through diverse literary forms and styles. The course then explores the historical, geographical, and literary frameworks that shaped the process of codification, while also presenting key approaches to reading and rereading the biblical text through the analysis of selected foundational texts.

017IHISL1	Principal Themes of Islamic History	3 Cr.
------------------	--	--------------

This course introduces students to the main themes of Islamic history, beginning with the Islamic call (da'wa) and the Rightly Guided Caliphate, and continuing through major dynastic periods, including the Umayyad, Abbasid, Fatimid, Ayyubid, and Mamluk eras.

It then examines key issues that characterized these periods, including the Islamic call, the question of the caliphate, the shu'ūbiyya movement, the status of the People of the Book within Islamic society, the Islamic system of land tenure (iqṭā'), the financial resources of the Islamic state, Islamic education, and civilizational exchange between the two shores of the Mediterranean, among other topics.

017IHJCL2	Principal Themes in Christian History	3 Cr.
------------------	--	--------------

The course traces the development of Christianity throughout history and in its engagement with intellectual, political, and social transformations, as well as its encounters with the Eastern and Western worlds and with Islam. It examines the emergence of the Church within the Jewish community and under the Roman Empire, the first ecumenical councils and their role in shaping Christian doctrine, and the rise of Islam and its impact on Christianity in the East. The course then addresses the divisions within the Church in both East and West, before exploring Christianity's engagement with modernity and its evolution in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. It concludes with an overview of the various families of Eastern Churches.

017BIIL1	Fundamentals of Islamic Doctrine	3 Cr.
-----------------	---	--------------

This course provides a concise introduction to the foundations of Islamic doctrine, its sources, and its significance, with particular attention to the distinction between 'aqida (creed) and shari'a (law) and their respective roles. It presents the pillars of Islam and the pillars of faith, offers an overview of the major Islamic legal schools, and examines the concept of religiosity, distinguishing between authentic practice and formal or superficial observance. The course also introduces the concept of prophethood, with a focus on the prophethood of Muhammad, outlining key aspects of his life in relation to his historical and social context, and his central miracle, the Qur'an. It further considers the Qur'an as part of the broader prophetic tradition, presents selected aspects of its inimitability, and introduces the sciences of the Qur'an. The course concludes with a study of death, the soul, the intermediate state (barzakh), and the Day of Judgment.

018MOKHL1	Introduction to Christian Doctrine – Classical Christian Civilization	3 Cr.
------------------	--	--------------

This course introduces students to the fundamental tenets of the Christian faith, with a particular focus on Jesus Christ—his person, teachings, and life events. These beliefs extend beyond doctrinal content to shape the life of the Christian community in its proclamation of the faith, the transmission of its core teachings, and its defense throughout history, as well as in its engagement with diverse cultures and civilizations.

Accordingly, the course covers the following topics:

- Jesus Christ: his life, mission, and teachings
- Divine revelation, inspiration, and the Holy Bible
- Core doctrines of the Christian faith
- The mystery of the Incarnation and Redemption
- The mystery of the Holy Trinity

- 
- 
- f) The Church and the sacraments
 - g) The Church in the contemporary world

017FORTF1	Training in Islamic–Christian Dialogue (Communication and Dialogue Techniques)	3 Cr.
------------------	---	--------------

This course focuses on communication and dialogue techniques and their practical application between Christian and Muslim participants. It enables students to engage in constructive communication with individuals from different religious backgrounds.

It is based on interactive, participatory learning approaches that help students understand the importance of core communication principles and their role in building meaningful relationships. In the first term, the course is taught in person, allowing for direct verbal and non-verbal interaction among students.