

**UNIVERSITY DIPLOMA IN CONTEMPORARY APPROACHES TO RELIGIOUS TEXTS
(EXEGESIS, INTERPRETATION AND DECONSTRUCTION)**

Main Language of Instruction:

French ☐ English ☐ Arabic ☒

Campus Where the Program Is Offered: CSH

OBJECTIVES

The UD aims to:

- Introduce students to non-classical critical and deconstructive approaches to sacred texts.
- Equip students with the ability and knowledge to read religious texts using modern interpretive methods.
- Teach students the fundamentals of textual criticism, hermeneutics, and the concepts of text structure.
- Familiarize students with the contributions of Orientalists to Qur'anic studies.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (COMPETENCIES)

- Recognize critical and deconstructive approaches to religious texts.
- Become familiar with the efforts of Orientalists and Arab scholars in interpreting and exegeting religious texts outside the classical framework.
- Study texts, methods of interpretation, and hermeneutics.
- Highlight historical and theological issues.
- Trace the trajectory of scholarly efforts according to their historical context.
- Identify the differences and consequences of interpretive methodologies.
- Proficiently interpret and deconstruct texts according to modern critical methods.
- Understand the concepts of textual structure and its historical reading.
- Become familiar with the efforts of Orientalists in the study of deconstructing religious texts.
- Master the prerequisites of criticism and deconstruction and the concepts of textual structure.
- Employ scientific research methodologies in study, analysis, and writing.
- Contribute to efforts to establish a religious foundation for the universal ethical system and human peace.
- Strive to understand the concepts of mercy, justice, and human goodness.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- The student must hold a bachelor's degree in Islamic studies, theology, religious sciences, humanities, or social studies.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

30 Credits: Required Courses (30 credits)

Modern Critical Methods and Theories (6 Cr.), Sacred Texts and Deconstructive Readings (Old Testament, New Testament) (6 Cr.), Orientalists and the Qur'an: Schools and Methods (6 Cr.), Qur'anic Studies and Methods of Interpretation (6 Cr.), Ethical Trends and Issues in Sacred Texts (6 Cr.).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

045MCMF1	Modern Critical Methods and Theories	6 Cr.
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This course aims to enable students to:

- Understand the origins of modern critical approaches, their most prominent schools and figures (Saussure, Ricoeur, Habermas, Taylor, Rawls, etc.), and their approaches (time and narrative, context, symbol, the general and the specific, root and branch, etc.).
- Become familiar with the principles, rules, and mechanisms upon which scholars of religious texts rely in the processes of interpretation, exegesis, and deconstruction (linguistics, philology, hermeneutics, etc.), and their relationship to critical and deconstructive approaches.
- Analyze, critique, and apply these approaches epistemologically according to the mechanisms and rules of critical approaches.

045TRALF1	Sacred Texts and Deconstructive Readings (Old Testament, New Testament)	6 Cr.
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This course aims to enable students to:

- Understand hermeneutics as the theoretical foundation of this approach, and how sacred religious texts have been understood and interpreted according to its principles.
- Become familiar with the theoretical and scientific foundations that govern the interpretation of sacred texts according to unconventional approaches that address the demands of contemporary life, society, and culture.
- Analyze and study the origins and development of this critical and interpretive methodology by examining its most prominent figures within the Christian context.

045OELCF2	Orientalists and the Qur'an: Schools and Methods	6 Cr.
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This course aims to enable students to:

- Understand the history of Western scholars' interest in the Qur'an and Qur'anic studies, and their efforts in publishing manuscripts and writing encyclopedias.
- Explore the methodologies, mechanisms, and foundations that governed the interest of Orientalists and Western researchers in Qur'anic studies (historical, anthropological, linguistic, structuralist, etc.), their contexts and backgrounds, and apply them to specific theological or historical issues.
- Present the efforts and works of Orientalists related to the Qur'an, from the 18th century to the present day, and highlight the most significant achievements in this field.

045SCMEF1	Qur'anic Studies and Methods of Interpretation	6 Cr.
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This course aims to enable students to:

- Understand the origins of the schools of Qur'anic exegesis in Islam, encompassing all their methodologies (linguistic, historical, jurisprudential, theological, symbolic, rare, etc.).
- Become familiar with the foundations, sciences, and preliminaries related to the science of exegesis, such as language, history, and jurisprudence, and the relationship of exegesis to other Qur'anic sciences, such as abrogation, variant readings, rare words, etc.
- Analyze classical texts from the exegetical heritage, representing examples of early, classical, and contemporary commentaries.

045EETSF2	Ethical Trends and Issues in Sacred Texts	6 Cr.
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This course aims to enable students to:

- Recognize axiological (ethical) interpretation as a leading interpretive approach that offers tremendous and contemporary potential for independent reasoning and renewal in interpreting sacred texts.
- Understand the evidence and principles upon which interpreters, philosophers, and researchers base their purely ethical readings of sacred texts, the goals that govern their work, and study the most prominent figures of this approach within the Islamic and Christian contexts.
- Interpret and explain texts by reading them in a way that aligns with contemporary humanistic principles, and apply this interpretation within the framework of scholarly reasoning related to human rights, citizenship, tolerance, peace, and interfaith relations.