HUMANITIES DIVISIONAL BOARD

Academic Committee

Changes in the regulations governing the Final Honour School of Oriental Studies (Arabic and Islamic Studies): communication from the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies

Ref: II/11

Approved on behalf of the Divisional Board on 12 March 2012.

Humanities Divisional Board

Honour School of Oriental Studies, Arabic and Islamic Studies

Brief note about nature of the change(s): Minor changes in papers and content to improve the structure of the course and to reflect changes in expertise of staff, following a retirement and a resignation.

With effect from 1 October 2013 (for first examination in 2014)


2. Ibid., p.379, l. 31, delete ‘History of Jewish-Muslim Relations’ and substitute: ‘The biography of Muhammad’.

3. Ibid., p. 379, l. 36, delete ‘Qur’anic commentary’ and substitute: ‘Qur’an’.

4. Ibid., p. 379, ll. 42-44, delete lines and substitute:

   ‘vi. Theology and Philosophy in the Islamic World’

   and renumber subsequent lines.

Explanatory notes

1. The Ghazâlî paper used to be taught by Dr Fritz Zimmermann, who has recently retired. The new UL in Islamic studies, Nicolai Sinai, would like to be able to expand the scope of the Ghazâlî paper slightly.

2. The focus on ‘Qur’anic commentary’ reflected the interests of Dr. Christopher Melchert, who has been offering this paper so far. The new title is slightly broader and would thus enable the new lecturer in Islamic Studies, N. Sinai, to either focus on the Qur’an in its Late Antique context of origin, or on later Islamic exegesis thereof, depending on what the students prefer.

3. The replacement of the papers contained in II. 42–44 and the introduction of a new, more comprehensive paper on ‘Theology and Philosophy in the Islamic World’ is designed to still offer students the possibility of studying Islamicate theology and philosophy, while recognizing that the abolished papers are probably too specific for an undergraduate with little previous exposure to medieval Islamic intellectual history.

4. ‘History of Jewish-Muslim Relations’ has so far been taught by Adam Silverstein, who is no longer working at Oxford. The proposed new option on the biography of Muhammad taught by the new UL in Islamic Studies, Dr Nicolai Sinai, will take its place. Consultation about Special Subjects and Further Subject normally happens in the middle of Hilary Term at a meeting organized by the FHS course coordinator. None of the present third-years has expressed an interest in Jewish-Muslim Relations, and the paper was not on the informal list of possible electives which students were given prior to that meeting.

NS/CLV 22 February 2012

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