

Humanities Divisional Board

Approved by officers on behalf of the Board on 15 May 2018

Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation

Master of Studies in Study of Religions

Brief note about nature of change: Clarification of scope and description update

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2017* (<https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2017-18/mosistudofreli/>)

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2018

For first examination from 2018-19

Detail of change

1.10 The candidate's two chosen religions will be examined by two papers, of which one will ~~consiste~~ consist of two essays of up to 5,000 words and one will consist of a dissertation of 10,000–15,000 words. Between them, essays and dissertations must deal with the two chosen religions only. Essays and dissertations on the interactions, relations or comparisons between the two religions, or approaches taken from one view towards others, are also encouraged, with the proviso that there is no overlap between essays and dissertation. Decisions on the suitability of titles for both dissertation and essays will be taken in consultation with the Chair of Examiners for that year.

(...)

1.19(c) *Islam*

1.20 ~~The paper is a broad investigation of the historical origins and development of the theology, law and mysticism of Islam, from the classical to the modern period. Specific topics will be established in consultation with students; possible subjects include: Prophethood of Muhammad; the Qur'an; the~~

Hadith; Shi'ism; the theologies of the Mu'tazilis, Ash'aris, and Hanbalis; Islamic law (*shari'a*) and the Sunni schools of the Hanafis, Malikis, Shafi'is, and Hanbalis; Sufism (*tasawwuf*) and the major Sufi orders; Islam and other religions. This paper offers students the opportunity either to gain a broad grounding in the historical origins and development of Islam, or to specialise in a chosen area of Islamic intellectual and socio-political history. On the classical period, topics may include: the Prophethood of Muhammad; the Qur'an; the Hadith; Shi'ism; Islamic theology (*kalam*); Islamic law (*shari'a*) and the Sunni schools; Sufism (*tasawwuf*) and the major Sufi orders; Islam and other religions. On developments in the modern period, topics may include: Islamic reformism (*al-Nahda*); Wahhabism; Hadith controversies; Sufism and anti-Sufism; Jihad; Sunni-Shi'i sectarianism; Muslim majority-minority relations; Muslim discourse on feminism; and Muslim discourse on politics, state and democracy.

1.21(d) *Judaism*

1.22 This paper will develop students' understanding of Judaism as the evolving religious expression of Jews, ~~particularly examining how it has developed in the modern period~~ providing scope for the study of the developments in different periods reflecting the range of expertise in the University. The core of the paper assumes that students develop a conceptual understanding of the thought and practice that underpin Judaism.

Explanatory Notes

This change specifies that candidates must deal only with the two chosen religions in their papers. It also corrects one typographical error and updates the wording of the course description in line with changes to course descriptions in the course handbook.