

Online Course on Theology of Christian-Muslim Dialogue

Coordinators of the HEST's Cluster on Christian-Muslim Relations:

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Following the request of the deans of theology and philosophy of the Kircher Network, the coordinators of the HEST's cluster on Christian-Muslim Relations have prepared an Online Course on Theology of Christian-Muslim Dialogue. The Course will be offered to master and doctoral students by the Loyola University Andalusia, Sankt Georgen Jesuit College of Philosophy and Theology and Innsbruck University-Faculty of Catholic Theology. The Course will be implemented as a pilot experience during one academic semester. After completing the trial phase, the participating institutions will carry out an assessment of the Course and agree on the academic, technological and administrative adjustments required to improve the initiative.

1. Course Overview:

The course's core will be a theology of Christian-Muslim dialogue at the intersection of practical and systematic reflections. The program will take advantage of the academic experience of the different faculties of theology, philosophy and religious studies of the Kircher Network by presenting the practice of dialogue in the different contexts in Europe and the Near East. The theological framework for the dialogue will be enriched by the interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives.

2. Target audience:

The course aims at graduate theology and philosophy students (master and doctoral¹) students with no prior in-depth knowledge on the topic of Christian-Muslim Dialogue.

¹ In exceptional cases, the course could also be offered to advance Bachelor students.

3. Language:

The course will be in English. The final papers could be written in English, French, German and Spanish.

4. Structure of the Course:

The course is divided in approximately 14-15 sessions of 90 minutes each covering the following contents:

Session N°	Topic	Content
1		Introduction
2	Theological framework	Magisterial framework 1 (NA, DM, DP)
3		Magisterial framework 2 (Abu Dhabi, FT)
4		Theology of interreligious dialogue
5	Sociological Perspective	Sociology of Islam
6		Social ethics, religious freedom
7	Christian-Muslim Dialogue in different European countries: Country case studies	Spain/France
8		Germany/Austria
9		Poland/Ireland
10		Lebanon
11	Exemplary contexts for Dialogue as loci theologici	School
12		Pastoral care
13		Migration
14		Christian and Muslim Theology in the University context
15	Final session	Conclusion: What could Christian-Muslim dialogue mean for our Christian faith?

5. Preliminary bibliography

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- Commission of the Bishops Conferences of the European Community, *Islam, Christianity and Europe: religious dimension of intercultural dialogue*, 2008.
- Crone, Patricia, *God's Rule: Government and Islam*, New York: Columbia University Press, 2004.
- Fitzgerald, Michael (2017) *Praise the Name of the Lord. Meditations on the Names of God in the Qur'an and the Bible*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press.
- Goddard, Hugh (2000): *A History of Christian-Muslim Relations*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Griffith, Sidney (2008): *The Church in the Shadow of the Mosque*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Mayer, Ann Elizabeth, *Islam and Human Rights: Tradition and Politics*, Boulder, CO: Westview Press 1991.
- Moyaert, Marianne: *Fragile Identities. Towards a Theology of interreligious Hospitality*. NY 2011.
- Pratt, Douglas: *Christian Engagement with Islam. Ecumenical Journeys since 1910*. Brill 2017.
- Renard, John: *Islam and Christianity*. California Press 2011.
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- Siddiqui, Mona (2014) *Christians, Muslims & Jesus*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Thomas, David (2017) (ed.) *Routledge Handbook on Christian-Muslim Relations*. Abingdon-on-Thames: Routledge.
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- Voll, John, *Islam: Continuity and Change in the Muslim World*, Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press 1994.

6. Instructional method:

The course will combine online asynchronous and synchronous learning activities.

- a. **Before the online session:** In an asynchronous mode, students will have to complete the readings assigned for the session and participate in an Online Forum².
- b. **Video conferencing synchronous sessions:** Each 90 minutes-session would consist of a synchronous class offered through video conferencing. Each session will include the following teaching and learning activities:
 1. Lecture (30 minutes)
 2. Discussion in small groups (15 minutes)
 3. Assembly discussion (15 minutes)
 4. Deepening on the readings with different pedagogical methods (i.e. Padlets³, YouTube videos, Arte TV...) (20 minutes)
 5. Final synthesis (10 minutes)

7. Evaluation and grading:

The course would count for 4,5 ECTS.

The student's final grade would be determined using the two following components:

- A 20 pages-paper (80% of the final grade).
- The student's activity in-class and online forum participations (20% of the final grade)

8. Schedule :

The course will be offered during the 2021-2022 academic year.

The 14-15 sessions will be held either on a one session per week basis or two sessions per week one.

Considering the differences among the Kircher institutions' academic calendars, and assuming the course will be offered on the first academic term, the sessions would be scheduled during October, November, December and January, if necessary.

² The Online forum will be an asynchronous conversation in the form of well-thought comments on the readings that students will be required to post before each session. The Online Forum will be held on the Course's E-Learning platform

³ <https://padlet.com/lacknere/lieblingstools>

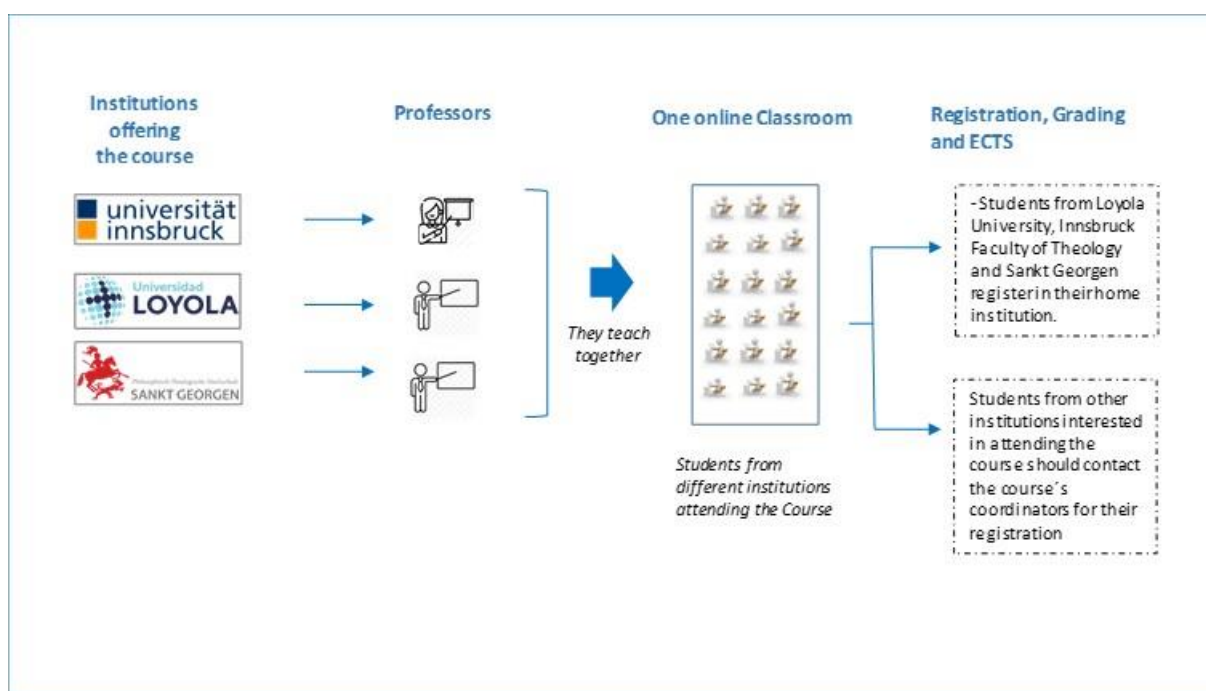
9. Teaching and registration:

The course would be offered by the Universidad Loyola, Innsbruck Faculty of Theology, Sankt Georgen. The course would be taught jointly by three professors, one from each of the three institutions. For some online sessions, other professors, specialists in the field would be invited.

The course would be conducted in one online classroom with all the students from the different institutions together, which would allow an enriched exchange and conversation among them and with the professors.

The students from Universidad Loyola, Innsbruck Faculty of Theology and Sankt Georgen would register in their home institutions and the corresponding professor would teach and evaluate them.

Figure 1



The Kircher Network would offer the course to all faculties of theology, philosophy and religious studies. Students from institutions other than the ones offering the course (i.e. Universidad Loyola, Innsbruck Faculty of Theology, Sankt Georgen) who want to attend the course should contact the coordinator⁴ to arrange their enrolments. During the pilot experience, the three institutions offering the course will not require students from other centres to pay tuition.

⁴ Gonzalo Villagrán SJ (gvillagran@uloyola.es) with copy to kirchernetwork@jesuits.eu

10. Internet platforms:

The course will use two platforms:

- Moodle for the *asynchronous* teaching and learning activities, the repository of readings, Online forum and communications. The Loyola Andalusia University will kindly contribute to the project by hosting the course on its Moodle platform and providing technical support.
- Zoom for the *synchronous* web-conferencing sessions.

11. Image and advertising:

As a common project of the Kircher Network, the promotional materials and online classrooms will include the logos of the Network and the faculties and centres participating in the course.