

Study Year 2025/26

University of Bonn
Faculty of Catholic Theology

Module Manual

Comparative Theological Studies

Master of Arts

Content


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Module Descriptions

The first three modules are compulsory, MCT 1 is to be studied in the winter semester and MCT 5 in the summer semester. The other modules can be studied over the course of two semesters, with one of the compulsory elective modules also being able to be completed after the first semester.


Compulsory area

MCT 1: Comparative Theology

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|---|-------------|------------|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| Module: Comparative Theology | | | | |  UNIVERSITÄT BONN | | |
| Module ID/Code: MCT 1 | | | | | | | |
| 1. Content and intended learning outcomes | | | | | | | |
| Content | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Methodological and hermeneutical basics of Comparative Theology (objectives, forms of learning, attitudes, different approaches)▪ Case study of a comparatively framed Christian theological treatise of Christian doctrine (e.g. Christology, Soteriology, Eschatology or Sign Theology)▪ Paradigmatic examination of Islamic or Jewish approaches towards Comparative Theology | | | | | |
| Intended learning outcomes | | <p>Students are able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ apply the methods of Comparative Theology in different religious contexts and apply and reflect them in relation to different models,▪ understand complex examples of Comparative Theological research and develop creative research accesses on their own▪ use the potential of comparative theology to reflect on the Christian doctrine of faith and to position themselves in relation to it,▪ approach foreign theologies and reflect on the changes in meaning of theological content and methods in different religious and cultural traditions. | | | | | |
| 2. Teaching and learning methods | | | | | | | |
| No. | Type of instruction | Topic | When taught | Group size | Language of instruction | Weekly contact time | Workload [h] |
| 1 | L/S | How to do Comparative Theology | WiSe | 20 | en. | 2 | 90 |
| 2 | S | Case Study 1 | WiSe | 20 | en. | 2 | 90 |
| 3 | S | Case Study 2 | WiSe | 20 | en. | 2 | 180 |
| 3. Prerequisites for the module | | | | | | | |
| Compulsory | | None | | | | | |
| Recommended | | None | | | | | |
| 4. Degree program allocation | | | | | | | |
| | | Study program | | | Compulsory/ Elective | | Semester |
| | | Master of Comparative Theological Studies | | | Compulsory | | 1 st |
| 5. Requirements for the award of credits (ECTS) | | | | | | | 6. Credits |
| Required achievements | | Active Participation including preparation and follow-up of the individual sessions, e.g. presentation or protocol or essay or homework | | | | | 12 |
| Assessment (incl. weighting) and examination language | | Written assignment (approx. 40,000 characters) accompanying the first lecture, including the skills acquired in the other courses (en.) | | | | | |


| 7. Frequency | | 8. Workload | 9. Duration |
|---|--|--|-------------|
| Winter semester | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Winter and | 1 semester |
| Summer semester | <input type="checkbox"/> | Summer semester <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | | 90h attendance 270h self-study time | |
| Module coordination | | | |
| Teacher | Klaus von Stosch & Team, Fatima Tofighi, Nestor Kavvadas | | |
| Module coordinator | Klaus von Stosch | | |
| Institute/Department | Faculty of Catholic Theology | | |
| Further information | | | |
| (Reading lists, information links, etc.) | | | |

MCT 2: Law and Religion

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|-----------------|--------------------|--|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Module: Law and Religion | | | | |  UNIVERSITÄT BONN | | |
| Module ID/Code: MCT 2 | | | | | | | |
| 1. Content and intended learning outcomes | | | | | | | |
| Content | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Basic knowledge of religious law in Christianity, Islam or Judaism or of the ethical foundations of law and theologyIntroduction to the international debate on the relationship between law and religionDeepening basic knowledge of religious law and insights into the relationship between law and religion based on a specific topic of discussion or field of application, e.g. the significance of religious law in the context of religion and violence or the relevance of religious law in education and learning | | | | | |
| Intended learning outcomes | | <p>Students are able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">move confidently within a religious legal tradition and relate them to other legal traditions,take a reflected position in meta-debates on the relationship between law and religion and relate the perspectives of different religious traditions to each other,reflect on the legal dimension of religious traditions for dealing with various problem constellations (e.g. with regard to the potential for violence in religions or with regard to religious education processes).Process research issues in religion and law and review them with the methods of Comparative Theology | | | | | |
| 2. Teaching and learning methods | | | | | | | |
| No. | Type of instruction | Topic | When taught | Group size | Language of instruction | Weekly contact time | Workload [h] |
| 1 | L | Introduction to Canon Law, Islamic Law, Jewish Law or Theological Ethics | WiSe | 30 | en. | 2 | 90 |
| 2 | S | Law and Religion | SoSe | 20 | en. | 2 | 180 |
| 3 | S | Case Study 3 | WiSe | 20 | en. | 2 | 90 |
| 3. Prerequisites for the module | | | | | | | |
| Compulsory | | None | | | | | |
| Recommended | | None | | | | | |
| 4. Degree program allocation | | | | | | | |
| | | Study program | | | Compulsory/ Elective | | Semester |
| | | Master of Comparative Theological Studies | | | Compulsory | | 1 st -2 nd |
| 5. Requirements for the award of credits (ECTS) | | | | | | | 6. Credits |
| Required achievements | | Active Participation including preparation and follow-up of the individual sessions, e.g. presentation or protocol or essay or homework | | | | | 12 |
| Assessment (incl. weighting) and examination language | | Written exam (180 minutes) as final module examination equally including all three courses, e.g. presentation or protocol or essay or homework (en.) | | | | | |
| 7. Frequency | | | | 8. Workload | | 9. Duration | |
| Winter semester | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Winter and | | 90h attendance 270h self-study time | | 2 semester |
| Summer semester | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Summer semester | | | | |


| Module coordination | |
|--|---|
| Teacher | Judith Hahn, Hubertus Roebben, Team Jochen Sautermeister, Nestor Kavvadas, Fatima Tofighi |
| Module coordinator | Judith Hahn |
| Institute/Department | Faculty of Catholic Theology |
| Further information | |
| (Reading lists, information links, etc.) | |

MCT 3: Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Module: Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations | | | | |  UNIVERSITÄT BONN | | |
| Module ID/Code: MCT 3 | | | | | | | |
| 1. Content and intended learning outcomes | | | | | | | |
| Content | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Historical and systematic study of the special relationships between Judaism, Christianity and IslamThe special relationship between two of the Abrahamic religions from the perspective of Christianity or JudaismQuran-theological and Islamic-theological approaches to Judaism and Christianity | | | | | |
| Intended learning outcomes | | <p>Students are able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">understand the special relationship between Judaism and Christianity, especially in view of the specific history of Anti-Semitism in Germany, and reflect on its significance for Christian religious theology,reflect on the special significance of Judaism and Christianity for Islam and discuss models of Abrahamic ecumenism within basic Qur'anic assumptions,analyse the relationships between the three Abrahamic religions historically and appreciate them in their specificity from different religious theologies.formulate and reflect their academic and personal attitude in cooperation and tension between the Abrahamic religions and apply them to concrete topics, also with regard to a possible doctorate. | | | | | |
| 2. Teaching and learning methods | | | | | | | |
| No. | Type of instruction | Topic | When taught | Group size | Language of instruction | Weekly contact time | Workload [h] |
| 1 | S | Israel theology or History of Jewish-Christian relations or History of Antisemitism | WiSe | 20 | en. | 2 | 90 |
| 2 | S/SE | History of Muslim-Christian Relations or Christian Theology of Islam or Jewish Theology of Islam | SoSe | 20 | en. | 2 | 90 |
| 3 | L/S | Theology of Abrahamic Religions | SoSe | 20 | en. | 2 | 180 |
| 3. Prerequisites for the module | | | | | | | |
| Compulsory | | None | | | | | |
| Recommended | | None | | | | | |
| 4. Degree program allocation | | | | | | | |
| | | Study program | | | Compulsory/ Elective | | Semester |
| | | Master of Comparative Theological Studies | | | Compulsory | | 1 st -2 nd |
| 5. Requirements for the award of credits (ECTS) | | | | | | | 6. Credits |
| Required achievements | | Active Participation including preparation and follow-up of the individual sessions, e.g. presentation or protocol or essay or homework | | | | | 12 |
| Assessment (incl. weighting) and examination language | | Portfolio (en.) | | | | | |
| 7. Frequency | | | 8. Workload | | | 9. Duration | |
| Winter semester | <input type="checkbox"/> | Winter and | 90h attendance | | | 2 semester | |
| Summer semester | <input type="checkbox"/> | summer semester | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 270h self-study time | | | |

| Module coordination | |
|---|--|
| Teacher | Gisela Muschiol, Klaus von Stosch und Team, Fatima Tofighi, Annette Boeckler |
| Module coordinator | Fatima Tofighi |
| Institute/Department | Faculty of Catholic Theology |
| Further information | |
| (Reading lists, information links, etc.) | |


Compulsory elective area**MCT 4a: Biblical, Qur'anic, and Historical Foundations**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|-------------|------------|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| Module: Biblical, Qur'anic, and Historical Foundations | | | | |  UNIVERSITÄT BONN | | |
| Module ID/Code: MCT 4a | | | | | | | |
| 1. Content and intended learning outcomes | | | | | | | |
| Content | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Critical reading of biblical ("holy") texts (and their translations)▪ Quran exegesis in the modern age▪ Reading and interpretation of key patristic texts or comparable key texts from rabbinic or Islamic tradition | | | | | |
| Intended learning outcomes | | <p>Students are able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ use the methodology of historical-critical exegesis to access Biblical and Quranic texts, critically reflect on translation processes and analyse these texts in a power-sensitive manner,▪ compare basic methods and contents of the appropriation of normative texts in late antiquity and modernity and take a stance towards these transformation processes,▪ understand key historical texts of a theological tradition and discuss the relationship between Scripture and Tradition,▪ understand topics of exegetic and historical research and develop their own access to them. | | | | | |
| 2. Teaching and learning methods | | | | | | | |
| No. | Type of instruction | Topic | When taught | Group size | Language of instruction | Weekly contact time | Workload [h] |
| 1 | SE | Translation-critical Reading of Key Texts from the Bible | WiSe | 10 | en. | 1 | 90 |
| 2 | S | Introduction to Qur'anic Studies | WiSe | 10 | en. | 2 | 90 |
| 3 | SE | Key Texts of Old Church History or Genres of Christian tradition or Key Texts from Rabbinic or Hadith tradition | WiSe | 10 | en. | 2 | 90 |
| 3. Prerequisites for the module | | | | | | | |
| Compulsory | | Knowledge of an ancient language (see Preambular) | | | | | |
| Recommended | | Knowledge of another ancient language | | | | | |
| 4. Degree program allocation | | | | | | | |
| | | Study program | | | Compulsory/ Elective | | Semester |
| | | Master of Comparative Theological Studies | | | Elective | | 1 st |
| 5. Requirements for the award of credits (ECTS) | | | | | | | 6. Credits |
| Required achievements | | Active Participation including preparation and follow-up of the individual sessions, e.g. presentation or protocol or essay or homework | | | | | 9 |
| Assessment (incl. weighting) and examination language | | Oral examination of 30 minutes (en.) | | | | | |

| 7. Frequency | | 8. Workload | 9. Duration |
|---|--|--|-------------------|
| Winter semester | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Winter and | 1 semester |
| Summer semester | <input type="checkbox"/> | summer semester <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | | 75h attendance 195h self-study time | |
| Module coordination | | | |
| Teacher | Christian Blumenthal (or other Teachers of the Department of Biblical Theology), Christian Hornung, Nestor Kavvadas, Fatima Tofighi | | |
| Module coordinator | Christian Blumenthal | | |
| Institute/Department | Faculty of Catholic Theology | | |
| Further information | | | |
| (Reading lists, information links, etc.) | | | |


or

MCT 4b: Ecumenism in Theory and Practice

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|---|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Module: Ecumenism in Theory and Practice | | | | |  UNIVERSITÄT BONN | | |
| Module ID/Code: MCT 4b | | | | | | | |
| 1. Content and intended learning outcomes | | | | | | | |
| Content | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Basic ecumenical questions and practice from the perspective of various Christian denominations (especially Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Old Catholic Churches)Theological work on diversity, heterogeneity and alterityReligious educational reflection on ecumenical aspects of the theological approach to heterogeneity | | | | | |
| Intended learning outcomes | | Students are able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">analyse the principles, opportunities and limits of ecumenical dialogue and cooperation for selected churches and denominations,relate the methods of ecumenical and Comparative Theological research to each other and value their hermeneutic strength for the relation of identity and difference,develop and apply religious educational concepts in which an appreciative approach to alterity is cultivated. | | | | | |
| 2. Teaching and learning methods | | | | | | | |
| No. | Type of instruction | Topic | When taught | Group size | Language of instruction | Weekly contact time | Workload [h] |
| 1 | SE/S | Ecumenism in Theory and Practice of one Christian Church | SoSe | 20 | en. | 2 | 90 |
| 2 | SE/S | Ecumenism in Theory and Practice of another Christian Church | SoSe | 20 | en. | 2 | 90 |
| 3 | SE | Learning in the Presence of the Other. Religious Education in Ecumenical Perspective | WiSe | 20 | en. | 2 | 90 |
| 3. Prerequisites for the module | | | | | | | |
| Compulsory | | None | | | | | |
| Recommended | | None | | | | | |
| 4. Degree program allocation | | | | | | | |
| | | Study program | | | Compulsory/ Elective | | Semester |
| | | Master of Comparative Theological Studies | | | Elective | | 1 st -2 nd |
| 5. Requirements for the award of credits (ECTS) | | | | | | | 6. Credits |
| Required achievements | | Active Participation including preparation and follow-up of the individual sessions, e.g. presentation or protocol or essay or homework | | | | | 9 |
| Assessment (incl. weighting) and examination language | | Oral examination of 30 minutes (en.) | | | | | |
| 7. Frequency | | | 8. Workload | | | 9. Duration | |
| Winter semester | <input type="checkbox"/> | Winter and | 90h attendance | | | 2 semester | |
| Summer semester | <input type="checkbox"/> | summer semester | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 180h self-study time | | | |

| Module coordination | |
|--|---|
| Teacher | Hubertus Roebben, Teaching staff of the Faculty of Protestant Theology, Klaus von Stosch and Team |
| Module coordinator | Hubertus Roebben |
| Institute/Department | Faculty of Protestant Theology and Faculty of Catholic Theology |
| Further information | |
| (Reading lists, information links, etc.) | |

Master Thesis (compulsory area)**MCT 5: Master Thesis**

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|--|--|--|--------------------|-------------------|
| Module: Master Thesis | |  UNIVERSITÄT BONN | | |
| Module ID/Code: MCT 5 | | | | |
| 1. Content and intended learning outcomes | | | | |
| Content | The specific content depends on the respective task set by the supervisor; the topic should be related to the field of research and teaching in which the thesis is written. | | | |
| Intended learning outcomes | <p>Students know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ the immanent logic of scientific argumentation,▪ the methods of scientific work (literature research, bibliography, citation),▪ the relevant research literature on a current comparative theological issue,▪ the formal requirements for academic work,▪ apply the standards of scientific writing,▪ bring their argumentation to a reasonable conclusion. <p>Students are able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ structure a comparative theological question from a scientific point of view and derive the structure of a scientific thesis from it,▪ structure a scientific thesis formally correct,▪ apply the standards of scientific writing safely,▪ formulate their argumentation consistently and stringently. <p>Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ work autonomously on a problem from the field of the Master's programme using scientific methods within a specified period of time,▪ reflect critically on the various research approaches with regard to their chosen topic and justify their own position with arguments,▪ situate themselves personally and scientifically in the issue,▪ find a solution to the problem they are working on and present it appropriately and comprehensibly. | | | |
| 2. Teaching and learning methods | | | | |
| | Topic | Language of instruction | ECTS | Workload [h] |
| | Self-study under the guidance/supervision of the topic provider, possible participation in the advanced seminar of the respective chair | en. | 15 | 450 |
| 3. Prerequisites for the module | | | | |
| Compulsory | At least one completed compulsory module | | | |
| Recommended | None | | | |
| 4. Degree program allocation | | | | |
| | Study program | Compulsory/ Elective | Semester | |
| | Master of Comparative Theological Studies | Compulsory | 2 nd | |
| 5. Requirements for the award of credits (ECTS) | | | | 6. Credits |
| Assessment (incl. weighting) and examination language | Scientific paper of 90,000 to 150,000 characters (without spaces) in the text, to be written within 3 months (after the topic has been issues by the Examination office). | | | 15 |
| 7. Frequency | | 8. Workload | 9. Duration | |
| Winter semester <input type="checkbox"/> | Winter and | 450h | 1 semester | |
| Summer semester <input type="checkbox"/> | summer semester <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |

| Module coordination | |
|---|--|
| Teacher | All professors of the Faculty of Catholic Theology |
| Module coordinator | Klaus von Stosch |
| Institute/Department | Faculty of Catholic Theology |
| Further information | |
| (Reading lists, information links, etc.) | |