

Study Year 2026/27

University of Bonn
Faculty of Catholic Theology

Module Guide

Comparative Theological Studies

Master of Arts

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Abbreviations

Subjects

AKG	Alte Kirchengeschichte (Old Church History)
AT	Altes Testament (Old Testament)
CGL	Christliche Gesellschaftslehre (Christian Social Teaching)
CSE	Christliche Sozialethik (Christian Social Ethics)
D	Dogmatik (Dogmatics)
EL	Einleitung Altes Testament / Neues Testament (Introduction to the Old/New Testament)
F	Fundamentaltheologie (Fundamental Theology / aka. Philosophy of Religion)
FD	Fachdidaktik (Subject Education)
KR	Kirchenrecht (Canon Law)
L	Liturgiewissenschaft (Liturgical Studies)
M	Moraltheologie (Moral Theology)
MNKG	Mittlere und Neuere Kirchengeschichte (Medieval and Modern Church History)
NT	Neues Testament (New Testament)
PA	Pastoraltheologie (Pastoral Theology)
Ph	Philosophie (Philosophy)
RP	Religionspädagogik (Religious Education)
STh	Systematische Theologie (Systematic Theology)
TGF	Theologische Genderforschung (Theological Gender Research)

Courses

V (L)	Vorlesung (lecture)
S	Seminar (seminar)
SE	Seminar mit Exkursion (seminar with excursion)
Ü (T)	Übung (tutorial)

Other abbreviations

en.	english
SoSe	summer semester
WiSe	winter semester

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		- 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		Students are able to: - 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	☒	Winter and	1 semester
Summer semester	☐	Summer semester ☐	
		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		- Basic knowledge of religious law in Christianity, Islam or Judaism or of the ethical foundations of law and theology - Introduction to the international debate on the relationship between law and religion - Deepening 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		Students are able to: - 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		☐	Winter and		90h attendance 270h self-study time		2 semester
Summer semester		☐	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		- Historical and systematic study of the special relationships between Judaism, Christianity and Islam - The special relationship between two of the Abrahamic religions from the perspective of Christianity or Judaism - Quran-theological and Islamic-theological approaches to Judaism and Christianity					
Intended learning outcomes		Students are able to: - 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 (E)/T	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	☐	Winter and	90h attendance			2 semester	
Summer semester	☐	summer semester	☒	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		▪ 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		Students are able to: ▪ 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	S/T	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	S (E)/T	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	☒	Winter and	1 semester
Summer semester	☐	summer semester ☐	
		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

Module: Ecumenism in Theory and Practice					 UNIVERSITÄT BONN		
Module ID/Code: MCT 4b							
1. Content and intended learning outcomes							
Content		▪ 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 alterity ▪ Religious educational reflection on ecumenical aspects of the theological approach to heterogeneity					
Intended learning outcomes		Students are able to: ▪ 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	S (E)/T	Ecumenism in Theory and Practice of one Christian Church	SoSe	20	en.	2	90
2	S (E)/T	Ecumenism in Theory and Practice of another Christian Church	SoSe	20	en.	2	90
3	S	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	☐	Winter and		90h attendance		2 semester	
Summer semester	☐	summer semester	☒	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**

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	Students know: ▪ 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. Students are able to: ▪ 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. Students: ▪ 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 ☐	Winter and	450h	1 semester	
Summer semester ☐	summer semester ☒			

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.)	