BCRE27 Institutions of Education and Science in Classical Islam

Semester: A  
ECTS Credits: 5  
Duration: 11 weeks  
Contact Hours: 22  
Quota: None  
Prerequisite subjects: None

This module will explore the historical development of the various institutions that shaped religious and scientific knowledge in Islamic civilization. It will examine philosophical/scientific and religious contexts of learning in their symbiotic relationship, with an emphasis on the connections between science and religious tradition, revelation and rational methods of investigation. The module will survey the main institutions that marked the full development of classical Islamic scholarship, ranging from the hospital and observatory, to the library, mosque, caliphal palace and especially the madrasa or Islamic university. Topics covered in class will include patterns and practices of knowledge production in medieval and postclassical Islam (circles of learning, patronage, medieval Islamic curricula, etc.), the place of science in medieval Islamic scholarship, modern scholarly debates about the relationship between science and Islam, and the development of the madrasa from its medieval origin up to the modern period and its relation European universities.

Learning Outcomes:
- extensive knowledge of the various institutions that shaped Islamic civilization
- a basic understanding of the timeline of Islamic dynasties and the major period of Islamic history
- insight into the scholarly discussions and debates about the place of science in Islam
- the ability to navigate and assess scholarly literature on specific issues pertaining to Islamic education and history
- a deeper and more detailed understanding of modern and contemporary issues related to the Near and Middle East

Indicative Reading:

Name of lecturer
Dr Walter Young