

**DIVINE EPICS:
THE QUR'AN AND THE AENEID**

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Course Description

Both the *Aeneid* and the Qur'an can be viewed as the culmination of divine trilogies—the *Aeneid* completes the story begun in the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, and the Qur'an follows the Hebrew Bible and New Testament (or, more precisely: the Torah and the Gospel). This course will examine these “sequels,” both as independent works and in terms of their relationships to their precursors. In addition, we will also compare and contrast Virgil’s account of the “Trojan exodus” of Aeneas, which culminates in the foundation of Rome, with the Exodus from Egypt, which culminates in the foundation of Israel.

Book List

- 1) Homer, *Iliad* (Fagles translation). Penguin 978-0140275360
- 2) Homer, *Odyssey* (Fagles translation). Penguin / 978-0140268867
- 3) Virgil, *Aeneid* (Fagles translation). Penguin / 978-0143106296
- 4) Oxford Annotated Bible. Oxford / 978-0195284850
- 5) *Al-Quran: A Contemporary Translation by Ahmed Ali*. Princeton / 978-0691074993

Class Schedule

Wk	FIRST HALF	SECOND HALF
1	COURSE INTRO / TEXTS INTRO Proems (<i>Aeneid</i> 1; <i>Iliad</i> 1; <i>Odyssey</i> 1)	Psalms 7, 14, 22, 23, 110, 137 Q: 1:1-2:7; 113; 114; 96; 110
2	<i>Aeneid</i> 1-2 <i>Iliad</i> 20	Exodus 1-24; Isaiah 1-12; Genesis 37-50 Q: 112; 40-41; 7; 11; 12
3	<i>Aeneid</i> 3-4 <i>Odyssey</i> 10	Ex. 19-23; Deut. 28-29:1; Matt. 5-7 Q: 5, 4, 2:168-286
4	<i>Aeneid</i> 5-6 <i>Odyssey</i> 11	Genesis 1-11; John 1 Q: 7; 72; 55; 71; 38
5	<i>Aeneid</i> 7-8 <i>Odyssey</i> 13	Revelation Q: 50, 75, 78, 79, 81, 84
6	<i>Aeneid</i> 9-10 <i>Iliad</i> 21	Matt. 1-2; Luke 1-2; Ex. 6:13-26; Num. 26 Q: 112, 19, 3:31-63, 5:67-86
7	<i>Aeneid</i> 11-12 <i>Iliad</i> 24	Genesis 12-25; Romans 1-9 Q: 2:133-147; 6:42-94; 14; 21; 26; 37; 51
8	Deuteronomy 1:1-5; 34 Joshua	Review & Synthesis