

# Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2016-2017

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)  
Credits 5.0 Study time 150 h Contact hrs 40.0 h

Course offerings in academic year 2019-2020

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020

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N., N.

LW21 lecturer-in-charge  
co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020

crdts offering

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Islam

Position of the course

This course provides an introduction to the rise and development of Islam within its historical context. It gives an overview of the various trends of the Islamic culture, and offers the instruments for a critical analysis of modern issues from an historical perspective.

This course meets the following learning outcomes: 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.2, 3.4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5, 5.6

Contents

This course provides a survey of the evolution of the Islamic religion and civilization: theology (*'ilm al-kalâm*), Islamic law (*fiqh*), philosophy (*falsafa*), Sufism (*tasawwuf*), natural and exact sciences.

The course focuses on the following topics:

- History of the Qoranic revelation.
- First political and theological problems.
- Development of theology (Mu'tazilism, Ash'arism, the systematization of al-Ghazâlî d. 1111).
- Sunni *orthodoxy*.
- Islamic law and juridical schools.
- Islamic philosophy (Neoplatonic and Aristotelian trends).
- Sufism.
- Shî'a and non-Sunni communities.
- Modern Islam.

Initial competences

Knowledge of the chronological framework of the Islamic history. Students who do not have this knowledge must catch up through reading (cfr. bibliography of the course).

Final competences

- 1 Basic knowledge of the Islamic religion and civilisation.
- 2 Acquire insight into the historical development of Islam.
- 3 Being able to see the complexity and variety of Islam.
- 4 Analyse Islam in its historical context.
- 5 Situate texts and facts in their religious, cultural and historical context.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

#### Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

#### Teaching methods

Group work, lecture, self-reliant study activities

#### Learning materials and price

- Albert Hourani, *A History of the Arab Peoples* (London: Faber and Faber, 1991). Pocket edition from 12 euros.
- Andrew Rippin, *Muslims. Their Religious Beliefs and Practices. Volume 1: The Formative Period* (London and New York: : Routledge, 1990). From 27 euros.
- Koran: *The Qur'an: English Translation and Parallel Arabic Text*, M.A.S. Abdel Haleem (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004). Pocket editie vanaf 11 euros. In het Arabisch en Engels.
- A variety of texts of Islamic sources in translation will be provided throughout the course.

#### References

- Jonathan P. Berkey, *The Formation of Islam. Religion and Society in the Near East 600-1800* (Cambridge: Cambridge University press, 2003). From 20 euros.
- Jaques Waardenburg, *Islam. Norm, ideal en werkelijkheid* (Amsterdam: Fibula, 2000). 14,50 euros.
- Ibn Khaldūn, *The Muqaddimah. An Introduction to History*, trans. Franz Rosenthal (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1967). Online text available.

#### Course content-related study coaching

Interactive support via Minerva (forums, e-mail) and on appointment.

#### Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

#### Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Oral examination

#### Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Oral examination

#### Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Assignment

#### Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible

#### Extra information on the examination methods

Final examination: oral examination. permanent evaluation: presentation and paper.

#### Calculation of the examination mark

Final examination (oral examination: 80%). Permanent evaluation: (presentation and paper 20%).

#### Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance, a task is imposed in substitution;
  2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
  3. Alternative time for feedback
- For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy