

Course title	Islam - religion, culture, politics
Course code	Filo1033
Credit points	2
ECTS creditpoints	3
Total Contact Hours	32
Number of hours for lectures	32

Course developers

Anita Stašulāne

Course abstract

To study Muslim impact in contemporary culture and politics, by considering one of the biggest world religions - Islam. Tasks of the course: 1) to provide insight in Islam history; 2) to identify political and culture problems related to Muslim world; 3) to analyse Islam impact in Western world.

Learning outcomes

Students, having acquired the study course

- demonstrate understanding of formation process of monotheistic religion;
- are able to identify, analyse and evaluate function of separate Muslim religious concepts in Islam religious system,
- are able to apply theoretical knowledge, by independently analysing relations of Islam and politics,
- are able to formulate and analytically describe main religious, cultural and political processes in Muslim countries,
- are able to independently improve their own professional competence, studying topical tendencies in Islam world.

Course plan

Course structure: lectures - 16 h., seminars - 16 h.

Theme 1. Introductory questions.

Lectures - 2 hours. Seminars - 2 hours.

Lecture 1. Topicality of Islam studies nowadays. Islam and Latvia.

Seminar 1. Islam pre-history: Ancient Arabia.

Theme 2. Introduction to Islam history

Lectures - 4 hours. Seminars - 2 hours.

Lecture 2. Life and activity of Muhammad.

Seminar 2. Development of Islam.

Theme 3. Muslim sacred text.

Lectures - 2 hours. Seminars - 2 hours.

Lecture 3. Koran and its hermeneutics.

Seminar 3. Translations of Koran in Latvian language, analysis of fragments (by choice).

Theme 4. Muslim religious practice.

Lectures - 2 hours. Seminars - 2 hours.

Lecture 4. Five Muslim religious obligations.

Seminar 4. Islam schools.

Theme 5. Inter-religious relations

Lectures - 2 hours. Seminars - 2 hours.

Lecture 5. History of Christian and Muslim relations.

Seminar 5. Sharia and culture and religion conflicts caused by it.

Theme 6. Socially political aspects.

Lectures - 2 hours. Seminars - 2 hours.

Lecture 6. Sunnah.

Seminar 6. Tradition and politics.

Theme 7. Manifestations in culture

Lectures - 2 hours. Seminars - 2 hours.

Lecture 7. Islam mystics and art.

Seminar 7. Peculiarities of contemporary Islam.

Theme 8. Topical problems

Lectures - 2 hours. Seminars - 2 hours.

Lecture 8. Islamic fundamentalism and terrorism.

Seminar 8. Future of West and Middle East: confrontation or dialogue?

Students' independent work:

to acquire indicated compulsory and further literature (by choice), when preparing for seminars.

Requirements for awarding credit points

Participation in lectures - 50% and seminars - 50%.

Compulsory reading

Armstronga K. Islāms: Īsa vēsture. Rīga: Atēna, 2004.

Shorter Encyclopaedia of Islam. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1995.

Vats V. M. Islāms: Īsa vēsture. Rīga: Nordik, 2002.

Хишам Ибн. Жизнеописание Пророка Мухаммада. Москва: Умма, 2002.

Further reading

Bērziņš U. Kas ir mans oriģināls ? // Karogs 7 (2002) 40. – 50. lpp.
Gasūns M. Viduslaiku mistiķis Kabirs // Karogs 4 (2005) 116. – 126. lpp.
Islāms: Enciklopēdija. Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 2002.
Korāns . Rīga, 2011.
Küng H. Islam: Past, Present & Future. Oxford: OneWorld, 2007.
Paiders J. Arābu laiki Latvijā. Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 2002.
Paiders J. Islams un Rietumi. Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 2001.
Taivans L. Tuvo Austrumu civilizācija: Osmaņu impērija. Rīga: Raka, 2009.
The Rivers of Paradise: Moses, Buddha, Confucius, Jesus, and Muhammad as Religious Founder. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2001.
Korāns. U. Bērziņa tulk. Rīga: Neputns, 2011.

Periodicals and other sources

1. LU Filozofijas un socioloģijas institūta reliģiski – filozofiski raksti.
2. LU Teoloģijas fak. zinātnisko rakstu krājums „Ceļš”
3. „Comparative Islamic Studies”
4. „Religious Studies and the History of Religion”
5. „Religion Studies Review”

Notes

Faculty of Humanities, bachelor's study programme Part C.

Course content

- Theme 1. Introductory questions. L2 S2
Theme 2. Introduction to Islam history. L2 S2 Theme 3. Muslim sacred text. L2 S2
Theme 4. Muslim religious practice. L2 S2
Theme 5. Inter-religious relations L2 S2
Theme 6. Socially political aspects. L2 S2
Theme 7. Manifestations in culture L2 S2
Theme 8. Topical problems L2 S2