Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the pro-dean for first-cycle studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2011-06-28 and was last revised on 2015-06-25. The revised syllabus applies from 2015-06-25, spring semester 2015.

General Information

The course is offered as a freestanding course. It can be included in a general degree.

Language of instruction: Swedish

Main field of studies
Religious Studies and Theology with specialization in History of Religions and Religious Behavioural Studies

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements
G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding
• account for basic knowledge of the history, teaching and practice of Islam from Muhammad’s time to the present
• account for basic theoretical perspectives within historiographical and social sciences research on religion
• account for and provide examples of Islam as a societal phenomenon throughout history and in the present
• account for basic concepts, terms and ideas within Islam

Competence and skills

This is a translation of the course syllabus approved in Swedish
• critically review material about Islam with regard to, for example, its relevance and reliability
• report the factual knowledge about Islam and Muslim practice and tradition that enables them to teach the subject in upper secondary school
• highlight and discuss manifestations of Islam in relation to a given society
• discuss processes of change within Islam
• distinguish between religious and scholarly terminology

Judgement and approach
• critically assess different religious statements and manifestations within Islam
• critically assess how men and women have put their stamp on Islam and Muslim tradition and culture throughout history and in relation to prevailing social structures

Course content
The course provides students with a broad empirical introduction to Islam from a historical, religious and present-day perspective. It focuses on the historical emergence of Islam from Muhammad’s time to the present, on the basic texts, rituals and theological foundations, and on Muslim religious life, mediation of tradition and interpretation in a minority context. Furthermore, the course deals with the function of history as an interpretative framework in Muslim history, new religious actors and media for interpretation and central theological debates. Finally, the course considers Islam in Sweden, and Swedish and European societies as religious arenas for present-day Muslims.

The course consists of four modules:

1. Present-Day Islamic discussions, 7.5 credits,
2. Muhammad, the Quran and the Formative History, 7.5 credits,
3. Islam in the Age of Empires, 7.5 credits,
4. The Muslims in Europe, 7.5 credits.

Course design
The teaching consists of lectures, seminars and compulsory group work.

Assessment
Module 1 is assessed on the basis of two written assignments and a written exam. Module 2 is assessed on the basis of two written assignments and a take-home exam. Module 3 is assessed on the basis of two written assignments and a written exam. Module 4 is assessed on the basis of a take-home written by the course participants throughout the course.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.
Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction.
For a grade of Pass on the whole course, the student must have been awarded this grade on all modules. For a grade of Pass with Distinction on the whole course, students must have been awarded this grade on at least 15 credits and a grade of Pass on the remaining credits.

Entry requirements

General and courses corresponding to the following Swedish Upper Secondary School Programs: History 1 and Social Studies 1 or History A and Social Studies A

Further information

1. All the modules in this course can also be taken as freestanding courses.
2. The course replaces ISLA50/ISLA01. Module 1 in ISLA50 and ISLA01, “Encounters with World Religions” can be included in the same degree as this course.
3. The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree. For further details see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.
4. The course is offered at the Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University.
5. Module titles in Swedish:
   1. Nutida islamiska diskussioner,
   2. Muhammad, Koranen och den tidiga historien,
   3. Islam i imperiernas tid,
Subcourses in ISLA11, Islamology: Level 1

Applies from H11

1101  Present Day Islamic Discussions, 7.5 hp
      Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
1102  Muhammad, The Quran and the Formative History, 7.5 hp
      Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
1103  Islam in the Age of the Empires, 7.5 hp
      Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
1104  Muslims in Europe, 7.5 hp
      Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction