

ISLA11, Islamology: Level 1, 30 credits

Islamologi: Grundkurs, 30 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

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 2025-03-14 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology (U 2025/234). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2025-03-14 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

General information

The course is offered as a stand-alone course. It can normally be included in a first or second-cycle degree.

Language of instruction: Swedish and English

Main field of study

Religious Studies and Theology with specialization in History of Religions and Religious Behavioural Studies

Specialisation

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

- 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 and seminars.

Module 2 contains 3–4 compulsory seminars. As part of the seminars, an oral presentation is mandatory.

Module 3 contains 3–4 compulsory seminars.

Absence from seminars is to be compensated for with a written assignment in accordance with the lecturer's instructions.

Assessment

Module 1 is assessed on the basis of two written assignments and a written exam.

Module 2 is assessed on the basis of a written take-home exam.

Module 3 is assessed on the basis of two written assignments and a written take-home exam.

Module 4 is assessed on the basis of a take-home written exam, which the students work on throughout the course.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: 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.

Module 1. For the grade of Pass, the student must have been awarded pass on both written assignments and the written examination. For the grade of Pass with distinction, one of two written assignments must be awarded the grade Pass with distinction along with the written examination.

Module 2. To pass, the written take-home examination must obtain the grade of Pass. To pass with distinction, the written take-home examination must obtain the grade Pass with distinction.

Module 3. For the grade of Pass, the student must have been awarded pass on both written assignments and the written take-home examination. For the grade of Pass with distinction, one of two written assignments must in addition be awarded the grade Pass with distinction along with the written take-home examination.

Module 4. For the grade of Pass, a pass is required on the take-home examination and to pass with distinction the grade Pass with distinction is required on the take-home examination.

Entry requirements

General and courses corresponding to the following Swedish Upper Secondary School Programs: History 1b/1a1+1a2 and Social Studies 1b/1a1+1a2 or History A and Social Studies A

Further information

- The course is offered at the Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University.
- All the modules in this course can also be taken as freestanding courses.
- The credits allocated for course content that is shared in whole or in part with another course can only be credited once for a degree.
- Module titles in Swedish:

1. Nutida islamiska diskussioner,
2. Muhammad, Koranen och den tidiga historien,

3. Islam i imperiernas tid,
4. Det muslimska Europa.