



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

ISLB32, Islamic Studies: Key Texts in Islamic Studies, 7.5 credits

Islamologi: Islamologiska nyckeltexter, 7,5 högskolepoäng
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2026-06-08 (U 2026/356). The syllabus comes into effect 2026-09-01 and is valid from the spring semester 2027.

General information

The course is offered as a freestanding course. It can be included in a first or second cycle degree.

Language of instruction: Swedish and English
Elements in other Scandinavian languages may occur.

Main field of study *Specialisation*

History of Religions G1F, First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- identify core texts and major thinkers within Islamic intellectual history,
- understand how the interplay of legal, philosophical, and ethical ideas and theories have evolved and shaped debates on Islam in Muslim societies,
- contextualize and trace the development of major schools of thought from the classical period to modern times by recognizing the diversity of, and difference between, major textual genres,

Competence and skills

- use knowledge of central texts and figures within Islamic traditions to historically contextualize Islamic thought and practice from the seventh century to the modern era,
- identify different theoretical doctrines and essential concepts in Islamic thought,
- demonstrate skills in analyzing and interpreting primary texts in translation using traditional and modern hermeneutics,
- complete an academic paper based on scientific research methodologies, including the use of primary texts and secondary scholarly literature,

Judgement and approach

- assess and evaluate how Islamic knowledge is produced and applied,
- critically examine classical texts through the lenses of history, conceptual analysis, and scholarly methods of interpretation.

Course content

The course provides a historical and thematic survey of foundational texts, both classical and modern, that have shaped Muslim beliefs, practices, and intellectual history. The course covers texts and treaties in Islamic law and jurisprudence, Islamic theology and philosophy, Sufism and ethics, and history and historiography. It is devised as an introduction to classical and modern interpretation methods, relying on English translations of primary sources.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, group exercises, and 4–5 mandatory seminars. Absence from the seminars may be compensated for with written assignments in accordance with instructions from the lecturer. Students who are absent from more than 50 % of the seminars will need to retake the course. The course entails a mandatory oral presentation on a topic determined with the lecturer.

If students, through no fault of their own – for example, due to an accident or sudden illness – have been unable to complete one or more mandatory components, the department is responsible for providing an equivalent alternative or another opportunity to complete the relevant component(s). This also applies to students who are serving as student representatives.

Assessment

The assessment is based on a written take-home exam.

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 a grade of Pass for the written take-home exam. For a grade of Pass with distinction on the whole course, the student must have been awarded a grade of Pass with distinction for the written take-home exam.

Entry requirements

General entry requirements and successful completion of at least 15 credits within Religious Studies: Level 1 (REVA10/ÄRED11), of which at least 5 credits must consist of Module 4. Alternatively, general eligibility and successful completion of at least 15 credits within Islamic Studies: Level 1 (ISLA11), or the equivalent.

Further information

- The course is offered at the Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University.
- The course is also included as module 1 of ISLB14, Islamic Studies: Level 2.
- 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.