



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## ISLB34, Islamic Studies: Islam, Politics and Public Debate, 7.5 credits

*Islamologi: Islam, politik och samhällsdebatt, 7,5 högskolepoäng*  
First Cycle / Grundnivå

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### 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

- demonstrate a broad understanding of the political relevance of Islam in historical and contemporary contexts based on current theoretical perspectives,
- describe and provide examples of historical and contemporary expressions of the relationship between politics and Islam,
- discuss debates on Islam, systems of government, and concepts of politics in different historical and societal contexts,

## Competence and skills

- compare how different Muslim-majority societies organize power, legislation, and institutions,
- critically analyze discussions on the role of Sharia as law, ethics, and moral guidance,
- critically analyze public debates about Islam,
- analyze how theological traditions, historical events, and social and cultural processes influence reinterpretations and reforms among traditional and non-traditional religious authorities,

## Judgement and approach

- critically evaluate claims and descriptions concerning Islam and politics that appear in the media and public debate,
- critically engage with theoretical perspectives on religious change, systems of government, modernization, and pluralization in relation to Islam,
- critically engage with political statements about different interpretations of Islam in historical and contemporary contexts.

## Course content

The course examines the interaction between Islam and politics in relation to processes of social change in historical and contemporary contexts. It is based on critical and contextual perspectives and analyzes how Islam and politics influence one another across different societies and historical periods. The course explores political expressions and dynamics in Muslim-majority societies as well as in minority contexts, and examines how Islam is discussed in contemporary political debates, both globally and in Europe, with particular focus on Sweden. The course also addresses issues such as religious extremism, fundamentalism, and other examples of the political dimensions of religion.

## Course design

The teaching consists of lectures 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.

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 3 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.