



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## ISLB35, Islamic Studies: Critical Thinking and Academic Writing, 7.5 credits

*Islamologi: Krittiskt tänkande och akademiskt skrivande, 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. The course 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, the students shall be able to

#### Knowledge and understanding

- account for previous research on a chosen topic or problem area within Islamic Studies,
- discuss the difference between primary sources, previous research and handbooks, study resources, and other types of material,
- explain the characteristics of an academic paper in contrast to other genres/text types, such as journalistic features or opinion pieces,

## Competence and skills

- produce a minor paper,
- select and employ research methods relevant to Islamic Studies and to the assignment,
- select and assess academic texts of relevance to the assignment,
- present and discuss the topic in speech and writing,
- use a system for quotations, references, and bibliography that is acceptable in academic contexts,

## Judgement and approach

- critically evaluate research methods in Islamic Studies and their relevance to different research areas within the field,
- apply good judgement to the assessment of different perspectives on previous research on the topic,
- perceptively identify their need of further knowledge on the topic.

## Course content

The course enables the student to practice taking on an independent assignment that is to be reported in a minor paper. The aim of the course is to introduce and provide training in academic writing. The assignment can cover any topic in the field of Islamic Studies and use historical, textual, archival, social-scientific, or ethnographic research methods. The topic is to be chosen in consultation with the lecturer on the course. Each student chooses their own topic and is responsible for presenting and discussing this topic with the other students and the lecturer.

## Course design

The teaching consists of lectures and supervision.

## Assessment

The assessment is based on a minor paper of approximately 40,000 characters, including spaces, a cover sheet, table of contents, and bibliography, and on a final defence seminar.

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 paper. 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 paper.

## 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 4 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.