



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Introduction to Islam: Belief and Ritual - 16106

Last update 28-08-2021

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Arabic Language & Literature

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Meir Bar-Aasher

Coordinator Email: Yohanan.Friedmann@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment: 054-5254565

Teaching Staff:

Prof Meir Bar-Asher

Course/Module description:

The pre-Islamic background; The Qur'an and its interpretation; The "five pillars" and their development; The prophetic tradition (hadith); Muslim prophetology and theology; Muslim sects and messianic movements; Sufism; Muslim law.

Course/Module aims:

Introduction to the main articles of faith and trends in Islamic thought.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

The students will know the basic principles of Islamic faith and will be aware of major trends in Islamic religious thought.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures

Course/Module Content:

1. Some basic features of Islamic civilization.
2. The pre-Islamic background: society in Arabia before the coming of Islam: its social values and religious beliefs.
3. The emergence of Islam: the meaning of the term and the change of the social and religious ideal.
4. The Qur'an: the structure of the book, the traditions concerning its canonization and the scholarly debate around it. "Inimitability" of the Qur'an. Survey of the contents of the book.
5. The idea of prophethood in Islam.
6. "The pillars of Islam".
7. Jihad and Islamic attitudes to other religions.
8. The Messianic idea in Islam.
9. The prophetic tradition "Hadith" and its significance for the development in Islam.
10. Qur'anic exegesis.

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11. *The Khawarij.*
 12. *The Shi'a.*
 13. *The Mu'tazila.*
 14. *Heretics in mediaeval Islam.*
 15. *Muslim asceticism and Sufism.*
 16. *Islamic Law.*

Required Reading:

- 1.I. Goldziher, *Introduction to Islamic Theology and Law*, Princeton, 1981
- 2.I. Goldziher, "What is meant by al-Jahiliyya?," in *Muslim Studies*, London, 1967, vol.2, pp.201-208.
- 3.E. Landau-Tasseron, "Jihad" in *Encyclopedia of the Quran*, Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2003, vol.2, pp. 35-42.

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 100 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: