



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Introduction to Islam: Belief and Ritual - 16106

Last update 09-09-2025

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Arabic Language & Literature

Academic year: 0

Semester:

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Michael Ebstein

Coordinator Email: michael.ebstein@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment through the email

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Michael Ebstein

Course/Module description:

In the course we will learn about the religion of Islam, its doctrines and rituals. We will become acquainted with its main movements or sects as well as with the different ways and genres in which Muslims expressed their faith. Among the topics that we will deal with are: The pre-Islamic background; The Qur'an and the Prophetic tradition (the Hadith); The "five pillars" of Islam and the religious law (sharia); the different Shi'i movements; Islamic theology, philosophy, and mysticism; and Islam in the modern world.

Course/Module aims:

Acquaintance with the main Islamic doctrines and rituals as well as with the different movements in Islam.

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

See above in Course aims.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures

Course/Module Content:

See above in course descriptions, the list of topic that will be dealt with. A full syllabus with more details will be given in the first lesson.

Required Reading:

Students will be asked to read a chapter or article before every lesson. A full bibliography will be given in the first lesson.

Additional Reading Material:

Students who will seek to enrich their knowledge of Islam will be given additional

(non-obligatory) bibliography. More details - in the first lesson.

Grading Scheme:

Computerized Exam - At the cluster % 80

Attendance / Participation in Field Excursion 20 %

Additional information: