



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Death Dying and Grief in Islam - 24199

Last update 23-09-2021

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Comparative Religion

Academic year: 2022

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Hannelies Koloska

Coordinator Email: hannelie.koloska@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesday 1-2 pm

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Hannelies Koloska

Course/Module description:

Death is an inescapable fact of life, and Islam likewise all religious and philosophical traditions offers ways and means to come to grips with it. This course introduces to the academic field of death studies in the study of religions. It will focus on concepts of death and dying in Islam, practices of burial and grief in past and present.

Course/Module aims:

Students will acquire basic literacy in one of the most important aspects of Muslim belief and rituals. They will learn how the human body, afterlife and death is conceptualized in Islamic texts and how rituals of burial, grief and acceptance of death developed.

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

- Students have basic knowledge of aspects of cultural, historical, political and religious considerations of death, dying and bereavement in Islam
- Students are familiarized with interdisciplinary perspectives around issues of death and dying
- Students cultivate analytical and reflective thought regarding Muslim attitudes toward death, dying and bereavement.
- Students demonstrate an understanding of the complexities involved in Muslim funeral experiences and death rituals.

Attendance requirements(%):

In case of absence the teacher has to be notified (not more than 2 times)

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: - group/pair or individual works
- close reading
- interactive learning

Course/Module Content:

- 1) What is death?
- 2) Death Studies
- 3) Death and Afterlife in the Qur'an
- 4) Death and Afterlife in Hadith and Sunna
- 5) Burial and Mourning in Islamic Tradition and Practices

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- 6) *Islamic Graves and Graveyards*
 - 7) *Veneration of the Dead*
 - 8) *Martyrdom and Suicide*
 - 9) *Bioethical questions*

Required Reading:

Laqueur, Thomas. 2015. "Do the Dead Matter?" in *The Work of the Dead: A Cultural History of Mortal Remains*. Princeton, Oxford; 35-54

Smith, Jane I. & Haddad, Yvonne Y. 1981. *The Islamic Understanding of Death and Resurrection*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.

and more

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 20 %

Participation in Tutorials 10 %

Project work 50 %

Assignments 20 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information:

This course will have joint sessions with course 38164 (*Burial in Islam*) and a joined excursion to the Mamilla cemetery.

Assignments/ Final paper can be written in English or Arabic.