

Islam and the Global World: Text and Context (A005137)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 6.0

Study time 180 h

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Franke, Lisa

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

[Master of Science in Teaching in Languages\(main subject Oriental Languages and Cultures\)](#)

6

A

[Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject Middle East Studies\)](#)

6

A

[Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures](#)

6

A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Islam, globalisation, world religion, gender, theology, religious practice, Sunnism, Sjiism, Salafism, islamism, modernity, tradition, 'Classical' and Modern Standard Arabic.

Position of the course

This course, pitched at the graduate academic level (master), builds on the knowledge and skills acquired in a BA-degree programma of Arabic and Islamic Studies, or equivalent. The course brings together various academic subjects that involve Islamic thought and practices of being Muslim, their study within — especially— the context of the sciences of culture and religion, and Arabic text study at intermediate to advanced levels (Arabic texts may potentially be provided in translation).

Contents

This course consists of a thorough study in regular seminars, from various empirically as well as theoretically informed perspectives, of themes relevant for an understanding of the place, role, significance and contribution of Islam to the modern and contemporary global world. Subjects are annually selected in the context of contemporary relevance and/or the scholarly priorities of students and teacher. Reading and review assignments of, amongst other, relevant Arabic texts are an important contributing component (Arabic texts may potentially be provided in translation).

Subjects that may be considered include: Islam and gender, Islam and modernity, Islam and globalisation, Islam and secularisation, Islam and/in Europe, reform and tradition, Islamism and nationalism, Islam and social media, Wahhabism and Salafism, local and global Islam, Islam and inter-religious dialogue, literature, religion, ...

Initial competences

BA in Arabic and Islamic Studies, or equivalent (including academic knowledge at undergraduate level of Islam as a religious and socio-cultural system, and intermediate knowledge of 'Classical' and Modern Standard Arabic).

Final competences

1 To identify and problematise the complexity of Islam in the contemporary global

- world.
- 2 To apply in creative ways an advanced knowledge of 'Classical' and Modern Standard Arabic in the analysis of complex questions pertaining to Islam in the global world.
 - 3 To identify and problematise the added value of different disciplines for the resolution of complex questions pertaining to Islam in the global world.
 - 4 To identify and problematise current theoretical discussions in the academic field of Islam in the global world.
 - 5 To identify and problematise current empirical discussions in the academic field of Islam in the global world.
 - 6 To apply independently current theoretical discussions in the academic field of Islam in the global world.
 - 7 To apply independently current empirical discussions in the academic field of Islam in the global world.
 - 8 To interpret results of individual research about Islam in the global world and to apply these in academically valid ways.
 - 9 To reflect critically and in independent and systematic ways about learning, thinking, deciding and acting in the context of Islam and the global world
 - 10 To construct valid academic arguments around complex problems related to Islam and the global world.
 - 11 To engage in written and oral communication, with peers and with others, about the results of independent learning, thinking and acting with respect to complex questions related to Islam in the global world.
 - 12 To collaborate, in a context of diversity, trans-cultural realities, and historical consciousness, on complex questions related to Islam in the global world.
 - 13 To have a critical consciousness about the relevance of knowledge about Islam and the global world for a variety of current social issues, events, debates and opinions.
 - 14 To have a critical consciousness about the significance of an advanced knowledge of 'Classical' and Modern Standard Arabic for gaining access to the context of current social issues, events, debates and opinions related to Islam in the global world.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Integrative seminar: reading and written assignments, presentations, debates, ... coordinated by the teacher, and with particular attention to meaningful engagements with relevant Arabic text collections (Arabic texts may potentially be provided in translation). There are no lesson recordings.

Study material

Type: Handouts

Name: Islam and the global world

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : No

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : not applicable

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : regularly

References

- O. Roy, *Globalized Islam: the search for a new Ummah* (Columbia UP, 2006)

- *The Sociology of Shari'a: Case Studies from around the World*, ed. A. Possamai, J.T. Richardson, B.S. Turner (Springer, 2015)
- *Europe's contending identities: supranationalism, ethnoregionalism, religion, and new nationalism*, ed. A. Gould, A.M. Messina (CUP, 2014)
- *Naar een Europese islam?*, ed. D. Douwes et al (Mets en Schilt, 2001)
- D.W. Brown, *Rethinking tradition in modern islamic thought* (CUP, 1999)
- A. Afsaruddin, *Contemporary Issues in Islam* (EUP, 2015)
- S. Zemni, 9/11, *politieke islam en jihad* (Acco, 2006)
- R. Meijer, *Global Salafism: Islam's new religious movement* (Hurst, 2009)
- *Islam: entre local et global*, ed. F. Dassetto et al (UCL, 2006)
- Ch. Kurzman, *Liberal Islam: A Sourcebook* (OUP, 1998)
- Ch. Kurzman, *Modernist Islam, 1840-1940: A Sourcebook* (OUP, 2002)
- *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden*, ed. R.L. Euben, M.Q. Zaman (Princeton, 2009)

Course content-related study coaching

Continuous feedback as a component of the interactive teaching method;
electronic platform Ufora.

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Continuous assessment: preparation and active participation, papers and presentations (detailed information will be provided at the start of the course).
Responsible use of AI will be allowed through the Education and Examination Code.

Calculation of the examination mark

100 % continuous assessment

Facilities for Working Students

1. No exemption from attendance requirements possible;
 2. Feedback can be given by email or by appointment during office hours
- For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy