

Introduction to the History of Islamic West Asia (600-1800) (A005455)

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

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2023-2024

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

group work

lecture

independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Termonia, Maya

LW21

staff member

Van Steenberghe, Jo

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

Van Den Bossche, Gowaart

LW21

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

[Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies\)](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject China \(China Track\)\)](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject China \(UGent Track\)\)](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject India\)](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject Japan\)](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in History](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Science in Political Science](#)

5

A

[Micro-credential Introduction to Islamic History and Religion](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme African Languages and Cultures](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures](#)

5

A

[Linking Course Master of Arts in Gender and Diversity](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

History, Islam, Late Antiquity, Middle Ages, Early Modernity, Islamic world, West-Asia, Middle East, empire formation, identity formation, Arabs, Turks, Mongols, Persians, introduction/survey

Position of the course

This introductory module allows students to gain a first insight into the history and research of the West-Asian Islamic world between the 7th and 18th centuries.

'Introduction to the History of Islamic West-Asia' is complementary with the module 'Introduction to Islam en Being Muslim', and it prepares for the module 'Politics of the Contemporary Middle East'.

Contents

This module enables the acquisition of a general framework for the history and the historical enquiry of the central Islamic lands, West-Asia (the Middle East, the Mashrek) in particular. The

aim of this module is to stimulate insight into the formation of the Islamic world and into the key developments that characterise this region's history from late antiquity till the early modern period (7th-18th centuries). This module endeavours especially to acquaint students with the academic discourses shaping current knowledge of the Islamic past, and of processes of empire/state and identity formation in particular. As a result, the module offers a framework of substance and attitudes that enables an academically grounded understanding of this past and its repercussions for the region's current situation.

The module is divided into two major blocks, corresponding to the two main chronological cycles that make up pre-modern Islamic history. The first block runs from the rise of Islam in the early 7th century until the complete disintegration of the Abbasid empire in the 10th century. The second block runs from the multiple invasions of the Islamic world by Turco-Mongol people, in the 11th century and beyond, until the transformation of early modern empires in the 18th and 19th centuries. In each block, discussions of processes of state and identity formation are prioritised, enriched with considerations of important social, religious and other phenomena and of cases from historical research.

Initial competences

learning outcomes secondary education

Final competences

- 1 To define and describe key evolutions in the history of Islamic West-Asia (7th-18th centuries)
- 2 To explain the historical processes that have shaped the premodern Islamic world
- 3 To connect the historical processes that have shaped the premodern Islamic world
- 4 To define a clear and relevant historical framework for Islamic history
- 5 To engage with key academic issues and debates on premodern Islamic history
- 6 To understand the value of source texts (in translation) for premodern Islamic history
- 7 To compare academic texts on premodern Islamic history
- 8 To co-operate in group on a specific in-depth assignment regarding premodern Islamic history

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

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Group work, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures concern weekly meeting in which the teacher engages from various perspectives with the subjects of the textbook, possibly also with the aid of audiovisual and digital materials. Students are expected to prepare for lectures from the textbook, including by the weekly formulation of a relevant question.

Individual study consists of a list of terms that are essential for the history of Islamic West-Asia.

Group and independent work consist of a portfolio-assignment (only students of Arabic and Islamic Studies) or a reading assignment (all other students), as a first encounter with a very specific aspect of that source material and its academic study. This furthermore includes the weekly preparation and formulation of a relevant question for the lectures.

Learning materials and price

J. Van Steenbergen, *Een Nieuwe Geschiedenis van de islamitische wereld. Rijks- en identiteitsvorming in islamitisch West-Azië*. (Leuven/Den Haag: Acco, 2018) (40,00 €)
Course reader (available on Ufora) (geraamde prijs: 10,60 €)

References

- J. Van Steenbergen, *A History of the Islamic World (600-1800)* (Routledge 2021)
- R.S. Humphreys, *Islamic History. A framework for Inquiry*
- I.M. Lapidus, *A History of Islamic Societies*
- *Cambridge Illustrated History of the Islamic World*, ed. F. Robinson
- *A Companion to the history of the Middle East*, ed. Y. Choueiri
- A. Hourani, *A History of the Arab Peoples*
- T. Ansary, *Destiny Disrupted. A History of the World through Islamic Eyes*
- *In harmony. Art from the Islamic World in the Cinquanteanaire Museum*, ed. M. Van

Raemdonck

Course content-related study coaching

Electronic support via Ufora (learning and reading materials, assignments with weekly feedback)

individual: during/after the lecture, by electronic appointment

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

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

- portfolio (1/4) (with possibility of an alternative assignment for non-AGI students)
- oral exam, with written preparation (3/4) - subject: lectures & text book, list of terms, (reading assignment) - format: 3/4 questions (reproduction, interpretation, terms) / timely submission of a complete portfolio is a condition to be allowed to the oral exam
(in case of a **resit**, assessment will only take place on the basis of an oral exam concerning the course material)

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical: oral examination (75 %) - non-periodical: combination of individual work and cooperation in group (1 portfolio) (25 %)

(resit: oral examination [100%])

Facilities for Working Students

1. No exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Feedback can be given by email, telephone or during an appointment during or after office hours

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy