

Politics of Islam (K001336)

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 2026-2027

A (semester 2)

English

Gent

lecture

seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Van Raemdonck, An

PS05

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Oriental Languages and Cultures)	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences(main subject Political Science)	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences(main subject Sociology)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Middle East Studies)	5	A
Master of Arts in Global Studies	5	A
Master of Science in Conflict and Development Studies	5	A
Master of Science in Sociology	5	A
Master of Science in Sociology	5	A
Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Political Islam, Islamism and fundamentalism, orientalism, Arab and Islamic world

Position of the course

This course provides students both theoretical understanding and methodological knowledge about the contemporary political, social and cultural manifestations of Islam in our global world. At a theoretical level, the course aims at providing knowledge and insight into the ways in which Muslim/Islamic mobilization arise.

Contents

This course aims to provide students with an introduction to the major intellectual and ideological debates, political and social movements as well as cultural trends at the intersection of politics and Islam. The course starts with a theoretical and methodological introduction highlighting the pitfalls, problems and difficulties of defining the object of study (political Islam, fundamentalism, Islamic resurgence, Islamism, ...). This sensitivity to theoretical issues and methodological concerns runs through all the semester's lectures. The course consists further of three parts that largely draw on insights from historical and political sociology. The first part focuses on the historical, intellectual and ideological roots of the Islamic resurgence from the end of the 19th century onwards, while the second part concentrates on Islam and current contentious politics, focusing on social movement theory, secularization, individualization. The final part deals with issues of Islam and identity in a global world. In this part, we will look into the ways Islam is represented in discourse, how it relates to democracy and whether we are heading

to a clash of civilizations. The course will offer the opportunity to discover the diversity of modern and current Islamic political, social and cultural manifestations and, in doing so, help them to understand in a more nuanced and informed manner some of the pressing issues of our times.

Initial competences

To give evidence of an academic level of thinking and working, and to be able to prove this by having **successfully completed a Bachelor study program**, demonstrating that the student has acquired a primary frame of thought that enables him to go deeper into the study of contemporary Islamic manifestations in a scientifically sound manner

Final competences

- 1 To understand the history, causes and diverse manifestations of (political) Islam and the ability to relate these to more general sociological theories of social change and social mobilization.
- 2 To know the most recent theoretical developments in the field of study on political Islam and be able to use them to analyze contemporary world political issues
- 3 To be able to critically evaluate knowledge on (political) Islam
- 4 Having a critical view on issues associated with Islamic manifestations in the modern world and being able to discuss this with both experts and non-experts

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

The course "Politics of Islam in a global world" consists of a series of ten or so lessons. There are both classic ex-cathedra lectures organized as well as interactive sessions and seminars (discussions based on assigned articles). In preparation for the seminars, the student is expected to do self-study. In concrete terms, this means that the student must complete certain reading assignments before coming to class. The student may be asked to share/read the preparatory readings during the lesson and engage in discussions with other students. The students are expected to follow current events. We discuss every week topics from current affairs that are tested against the teaching material.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Politics of Islam

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Number of Pages : 350

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

References

- Bayat, A. (2007). Making Islam Democratic: Social Movements and the Post-Islamist Turn, Stanford University Press.
- Euben, Roxanne L. (1999). Enemy within the Mirror. Islamic Fundamentalism and the Limits of Modern Rationalism. A Work of Comparative Political Theory, Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press.
- Mandavile, P. (2007). Global Political Islam. London: Routledge.

Course content-related study coaching

Ufora

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

Assignment

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

Assignment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Calculation of the examination mark

Facilities for Working Students

No