

## 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
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**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Van Raemdonck, An	PS05	lecturer-in-charge
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**Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027**

	<b>crdts</b>	<b>offering</b>
<a href="#">Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Oriental Languages and Cultures)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences(main subject Political Science)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences(main subject Sociology)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Middle East Studies)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Arts in Global Studies</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Conflict and Development Studies</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Sociology</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Sociology</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences</a>	5	A

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

Political Islam, Islamism and fundamentalism, orientalism, Arab and Islamic world, Islam and Muslims in Europe

**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 1) providing knowledge and insight into the ways in which Muslim/Islamic mobilization arise and/or 2) providing insight into the ways in which (knowledge of) Islam and Muslims are being politicized. This course has the shape of a text-based interactive discussion seminar in which weekly participation is required.

**Contents**

This course aims to provide students with an introduction to some 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 focus on theoretical and methodological pitfalls, problems and difficulties of defining the object of study (political Islam, Muslim politics, anti-Muslim racism, ...). This sensitivity to theoretical issues and methodological concerns runs through all the semester's discussion sessions.

After a theoretical-methodological introduction drawing from the sociology of Islam, historical and political sociology, the course continues with more thematic

and topical discussion. It aims to connect theoretical insights to discussion of current affairs. Possible foci include: the historical, intellectual and ideological roots of the Islamic resurgence from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards; Islam and current contentious politics focusing on social movement theory, secularization and neoliberal politics; issues of Islam and identity in a global world; the politicization of Islam and Muslims; theorizing Islamophobia and anti-semitism. 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 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 lessons and group discussions. The classes combine classic ex-cathedra teaching with interactive discussion seminars based on assigned articles. In preparation for class, all students are expected to complete certain assigned readings (+/- 50 pages) before coming to class. Students are expected to follow current events. We regularly discuss topics from current affairs that are tested against the teaching material. Weekly presence and participation in the group discussion are required for the permanent evaluation.

### 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

**Extra information on the examination methods**

Evaluation consists of:

50% weekly presence and active participation in group discussion

50% group assignment (written assignment)

**Calculation of the examination mark****Facilities for Working Students**

No