



### COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Islam: Between Tradition and Modernity Islamas: tarp tradicijos ir modernybės	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s) where the course unit (module) is delivered
Coordinator: Lect. Algimantas Litvinas	Institute of Asian and Transcultural Studies Faculty of Philosophy, Universiteto str. 5, LT-01513 Vilnius

Study cycle	Level of course (module)	Type of course unit (module)
Bachelor, Master	1	Optional

Mode of delivery	Period of delivery	Language of instruction
Lectures and seminars	Spring semester 2023	English

Requirements for students	
Prerequisites: English language proficiency (level B2 required)	Additional requirements (if any): None

Course (module) volume in credits	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5	133	32	101

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed		
<p>The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the wide range of important problems and ideas in the classical and contemporary Islamic discourse, to make for them familiar the intricate style and structure of the Islamic discourse, to give the notion of the traditional Islamic culture and sciences and of modern trends of Islamic thought, as well some research written by non-Muslim scholars. This interdisciplinary course aims to develop the understanding of the main concepts of Islamic religion and culture, the ability to discuss both the Qur'anic text and various modern ideas using the interpretative techniques of traditional scholarship as well as some modern scholarly writings. The assignments and class discussion shall develop the ability of students to engage the Islamic cultural concepts critically using evidence contained within the classical Islamic texts and in modern texts authored by both Muslim and non-Muslim researchers.</p>		
Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Students will get acquaintance with the main concepts of the Islamic religion and culture.	Lectures and seminars, reading of source and scholarly literature	Classwork, short reaction paper, academic essay outline, academic essay, examination essay
Will be able to discuss some key issues in the Islamic faith and culture.		
Will be able to discuss different sides of Islamic way of life both in past and in present times.		
Will acquire intercultural communication skills.		

Course content: breakdown of the topics	Contact work	Self-study study time and assignments

	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Exercises	Laboratory work	Internship/work	Contact hours	Independent work	Assignments
1. Introduction to the course. Charity (alms, <i>zakāt</i> ) as a category of Islamic discourse and its practices in Palestine	2		1				3	5	Qur'ān 9: 60; Schaeublin 2014, 19-26
2. Traditional and contemporary Islamic calligraphy. Islamic calligraphy as a form of iconoclasm	1		1				2	5	Issa 2019, 9-14, 32-35, 42-46
3. Renewal of Islam and the leadership of millions of Muslims according to Rashid Rida (d. 1935)	1		1				2	5	Qur'ān 11: 117, 14: 13, 17: 16, 28: 59, 35: 43, 46: 35; Kurzman 2002, 77-85
4. Jamal al-Din al-Afghani (d. 1897) about Islam and science, religion and philosophy. Four modes of the relation between religion and state according to Ziya Gökalp (d. 1924)	1		1				2	6	Qur'ān 2:256; Kurzman 2002, 103-110, 192-197
5. The practice of excommunication ( <i>takfīr</i> ) and suicide bombings by foreign jihadists in a Muslim country (Iraq)	1		1				2	5	Qur'ān 2: 154; 4: 66, 74-77, 93-96; 9: 11-15; Kafeyan 2010, 61-73
6. War captives and slave concubinage in Muslim texts and discourses	1		1				2	6	Qur'ān 2:221, 4:3, 23:5-6, 24:33, 58:3; Ali 2016, 39-55
7. The Prophet Muhammad's relationship with women (wet nurse, wives) and modern Muslim sensibilities	1		1				2	5	Qur'ān 4:19-20, 16:59, 24:31, 33:59, 30:21, 81:8; Kurzman 2002, 207-214; Ali 2006, 135-137
8. Concerning polygyny: pro and contra	1		1				2	6	Qur'ān 4:59, 4:3, 4:34-35, 2:229-230, 2:222-223, 17:32; Khan & Zahoor 2015, 33-37; Kurzman 2002, 188-191
9. Divorce in Islamic ethics	1		1				2	5	Qur'ān 2: 229-230 (twice, another), 4: 19-20 (inherit, bride-gift), 35 (2 arbiters), 128-129 (settlement, equal); Ali 2007, 24-38
10. Forbidden partners and prohibited acts in Islamic jurisprudence	1		1				2	6	Qur'ān 4: 25, 24: 2, 4, 6-9; Ali 2006, 56-74
11. Same-sex intimacy in Muslim thought	1		1				2	5	Qur'ān 4: 15-16, 23: 165-166; Ali 2006, 75-96
12. Female bodies and male agency in the Qur'an	1		1				2	6	Qur'ān 2: 116, 187, 221-223, 228-230, 238, 3: 14; Ali 2006, 112-134
13. Academic essay	2		5				7	16	Writing an academic essay
14. Preparation for the exam								20	Studying the source and scholarly literature
Total	15		17				32	101	

Assessment strategy	Weight, %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Short reaction paper	10	End of the 1 <sup>st</sup> month	Quality of a short reaction paper (2 pages, 3 references).
Academic essay outline	10	End of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> month	Quality of an academic essay outline (2 pages with Chicago author-date citations, Chicago reference list of 5 entries).
Academic essay	30	End of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> month	Academic essay on a course-related topic (length: about 3,000 words). Choice of a research question, text structure, Chicago author-date citations and Chicago reference list.
Written examination	50	After the lecture period	An examination essay on a topic picked at random from among the topics covered throughout the course (duration: 90 minutes).

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or web link
<b>Required reading</b>				
1. Abdel Haleem, Muhammad A. S. (tr.)	2005	<i>The Qur'an. A New Translation</i>		Oxford University Press
2. Ali, Kecia	2006	<i>Sexual Ethics and Islam: Feminist Reflections on Qur'an, Hadith, and Jurisprudence</i>		Oxford: Oneworld
3. Issa, Ayah	2019	<i>Gertrude Stein and Islamic Calligraphy: The Traditional Roots of Experimental Modernism.</i> B.S. thesis		University of Michigan
4. Kafeyan, Kelly F.	2010	<i>Sunni and Shiite Martyrdom: A Comparative Analysis of Historical and Contemporary Expressions.</i> Thesis		Monterey Naval Postgraduate School, California
5. Khan, Janas & Muhammad Zahoor	2015	"Islamic Concept of Polygamy, Its Benefits and Impact on Society." In <i>Acta Islamica</i>	Vol. 3, Issue 1: 31-38	
6. Kurzman, Charles	2002	<i>Modernist Islam, 1840-1940: A Sourcebook</i>		Oxford University Press
7. Schaeublin, Emanuel	2014	"Zakat Practice in the Islamic Tradition and Its Recent History in the Context of Palestine." In <i>Histories of Humanitarian Action in the Middle East and North Africa</i> , edited by Eleanor Davey & Eva Svoboda, 19-28		London: Overseas Development Institute
<b>Optional reading</b>				
1. Bukhari, Muhammed Ibn Ismaiel	1997	<i>Sahih al-Bukhari Arabic-English.</i> Translated by Muhammad Muhsin Khan	Vols. 1-9	Riyadh: Darussalam. archive.org