



COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Musulmonų tikėjimai ir religinės praktikos Religious Beliefs and Practices of Muslims	

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

Study cycle	Level of course unit	Type of the course unit
First (Bachelor), Second (Master)	1	Optional

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when the course unit is delivered	Language of instruction
Lectures and seminars	Autumn 2023	English

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

Course (module) volume in credits	Student's workload	Contact hours	Individual work
5	133	32	101

Purpose of the course unit: programme competences to be developed		
<p>The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the Muslim beliefs and lifestyle while getting knowledge not only of relevant newest scholarly literature but also studying short excerpts of primary sources which serve as authoritative texts for Muslims. The course aims to develop: a) the general understanding of the tenets of Islam and the behaviour of Muslims both in past and present; b) the ability to discuss both orally and in written form the classical texts and scholarly literature on the subject; c) analytical and critical thinking; d) skills of intercultural communication.</p>		
Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Acquaintance with the main texts and tenets of religion which are followed by Muslims	Lectures and seminars, readings of source and scholarly literature	Classwork, short reaction paper, academic essay outline, academic essay, examination essay
Ability to discuss the key concepts of Muslim worldview	Lectures and seminars, readings of source and scholarly literature	Classwork, short reaction paper, academic essay outline, academic essay, examination essay
Ability to discuss the Islamic lifestyle both in past and present, as well as in comparison, in Muslim countries and the diaspora	Lectures and seminars, readings of source and scholarly literature	Classwork, short reaction paper, academic essay outline, academic essay, examination essay
Intercultural communication skills	Lectures and seminars, readings of source and scholarly literature	Classwork, short reaction paper, academic essay outline, academic essay, examination essay

Course content: breakdown of the topics	Contact work	Individual work: time and assignments

	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Exercises	Laboratory work	Internship/work	Contact hours	Individual work	Assignments
1. Key beliefs of a Muslim and the five pillars of Islam	1		1				2	5	Qur'an 2:177; Ghazzali 1993, 116-118; Saeed 2004, 16-24.
2. The milestones in a Muslim life	1		1				2	5	Qur'an 4:3-7, 128-129; Ghazali n.d., 106-120; Saeed 2004, 31-33.
3. Holidays and holy days	1		1				2	5	Saeed 2004, 41; Rippin 2005, 108, 112-117.
4. Sacred places. Mosques and religious leaders	1		1				2	6	Qur'an 2:196-200; Ghazali 1975, 58-70; Saeed 2004, 42-43, 52-56.
5. Sacred texts	1		1				2	5	Qur'an 1:1-7, 2:106, 228, 4:38; Saeed 2004, 44-46; Schneider 2014, 23-32.
6. Determining right and wrong	1		1				2	6	Qaradavi 1997, 179-186; Saeed 2004, 47-51; Siddiqui 2012, 62-66.
7. Islam and violence	1		1				2	5	Saeed 2004, 58-60; Hitchcock 2014, 57-64; Masry 2016, 87-88; Rippin 2005, 309-312.
8. Family life. Family planning and contraceptive practices in Morocco	1		1				2	6	Saeed 2004, 29-30; Hafez & Slyomovics 2013, 239-257.
9. Blogging and social media in the Middle East	1		1				2	5	Hafez & Slyomovics 2013, 301-311.
10. Approaching the Qur'an: levels of interaction	1		1				2	6	Esack 2007, 1-12.
11. Egyptian society problems in a piece of art (a novel and a movie based on it)	1		1				2	5	Aswany 2011, 15-23; Masry 2016, 70-74; <i>The Yacoubian Building</i> movie with English subtitles on youtube.
12. Shari'a in the diaspora	1		1				2	6	Hafez & Slyomovics 2013, 223-238.
13. Academic essay	1		5				6	18	Writing an academic essay
14. Consultation for the examination		2					2		Consultation
15. Preparation for the examination								18	Preparation
Total	13	2	17				32	101	

Assessment strategy	Weight, %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Classwork	10		Taking part in the classwork – lectures, seminars, discussions
Two homework assignments	10+10	End of the 1 st month (Sep), end of the 2 nd month (Oct)	Quality of a short reaction paper (2 pages, 3 references), of an academic essay outline (2 pages with author-date in-text citations, reference list of 5 entries).
Third assignment: academic essay	20	End of the 3 rd month (Nov)	Academic essay on a course-related topic (length: about 2,500 words). Choice of research question, text structure, author-date in-text citations and 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	Publishing year	Title	Issue No or volume	Publishing house or internet site
Required reading				
Abdel Haleem, M. (transl.)	2005	<i>The Qur'an: A New Translation</i>		Oxford: Oxford University Press
Aswany, Alaa Al	2011	<i>The Yacoubian Building</i> . Translated by Humphrey Davies		London: HarperCollins Publishers
Esack, Farid	2007	<i>The Qur'an: A User's Guide</i>		Oxford: Oneworld Publications
Al-Ghazali, Abu Hamid	n.y.	<i>Book on the Etiquette of Marriage</i> . Translated by Madeleine Farah		n.p.
Al-Ghazzali, Abu Hamid	1993	<i>Revival of Religious Learnings</i>		Karachi: Urdu Bazar
Hafez, Sherine, and Susan Slyomovics (eds)	2013	<i>Anthropology of the Middle East and North Africa</i>		Bloomington: Indiana University Press
Hitchcock, Richard	2014	<i>Muslim Spain Reconsidered: From 711 to 1502</i>		Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press
Masry, Yara Amr El	2016	<i>Representations of Political Violence in Contemporary Middle Eastern Fiction</i> . PhD thesis		University of Essex
Al-Qaradawi, Yusuf	1997	<i>The Lawful and the Prohibited in Islam</i>		Al-Falah Foundation
Rippin, Andrew	2006	<i>Muslims: Their Religious Beliefs and Practices</i>		London: Routledge
Saeed, Abdullah	2004	<i>Muslim Australians: Their Beliefs, Practices and Institutions</i>		Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs; Australian Multicultural Foundation; University of Melbourne
Schneider, Irene	2014	<i>Women in the Islamic World: From Earliest Times to the Arab Spring</i> . Translated from German by Steven Rendall		Princeton, NJ: Markus Wiener Publishers
Siddiqui, Mona	2012	<i>The Good Muslim: Reflections on Classical Islamic Law and Theology</i>		New York: Cambridge University Press