



Code:	L-OR/10	Credits: 6
Matter:		
Main language of instruction:	Italian	
Other language of instruction:	English	

Teaching Staff

Head instructor

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Introduction

1. Presentation

The History of Islamic Countries course aims to give a basic knowledge of the characteristics of Islam not only as a religion but also as a culture that embraces various areas of life: from politics to food, from morality to law. The course will present some essential moments of the birth of Islam through the figure of Muhammad and his teaching, as well as the events that led to the birth of Islam and its first spread in the century that followed the death of the prophet. Particular attention will be paid to relations between Islam and the other two Abrahamic monotheistic religions, Judaism and Christianity. Based on the data acquired in the study of the life of the prophet, of his doctrine and of the early history of Islam, some tools will be offered to understand some issues of contemporary Islam, for example the contrast between Sunnis and Shiites.

2. Expected results

The main training objectives of the course are the following:

- 1. to highlight some misleading clichés about the nature of Islam, such as the identification between Islam and the Arab world*
- 2. to provide a framework of the historical cultural context in which Islam is born*
- 3. to clarify the relations that, at the time of Muhammad, Islam had with Christianity and Judaism*
- 4. to show the influence of the Arab-Bedouin world on the formulation of Islamic doctrine*
- 5. to introduce the student to the reading and consultation of the Koran*



3. Organisation

Teaching will be offered in different ways. The main one consists of 36 pre-recorded lessons present on the platform with relative self-test tests for each lesson. The student is also invited to carry out a series of themes to verify his / her learning levels of the various parts of the program, themes that are corrected by the teacher and sent back to the student with comments and explanations. The same program, albeit with different methods and with a series of additions, is carried out through the handouts, periodically updated, and with a series of materials attached to the same handouts.

A series of twice-weekly lessons are held on site for students who attend in presence and others three times a week through one-hour afternoon connections in which students can request additional explanations with respect to what has been done in other locations.

In particular, the History of Islamic Countries Course provides 6 credits.

The total study load for this teaching module is between 150 and 170 hours, divided as follows:

- *approximately 120 hours for the Didactic Education, ie the visualization and study of the videotaped material;*
- *about 40 hours of Interactive Teaching for the elaboration and delivery of 4 Eivity;*
- *about 10 hours of Interactive Teaching for the execution of self-assessment tests;*
- *Interactive teaching is carried out in the "virtual classroom" forum and includes 4 Eivity which apply the knowledge acquired in the lessons*

It is advisable to distribute the subject study uniformly over a period of 11 weeks, devoting between 15 and 20 hours of study a week

Objectives

At the end of the course, the student should have acquired a series of specific skills:

- *To have a basic knowledge of the historical origin of Islam and the geographical and cultural area in which it spread;*
- *To Know the fundamental categories of the Muslim religion: the principle of the uniqueness of God, the meaning of "Sunna" (Tradition); the meaning of Revelation; what is meant in Islam by Prophecy; etc.;*
- *To understand of the complexity of the Islamic world and of the articulations within it, in relation to the geographical area, the socio-cultural contexts and the various currents of Islam (Sunnism, Shiism, Sufism, etc.)*



- *To have some tools that are albeit elementary in understanding, albeit partial, the contemporary reality of Islam, even in problematic contexts such as the Middle East.*

Competencies:

Syllabus

1. Module 1 - (30 hours of study for video lessons - week 1-3)

Geographical historical context in which the first Islam develops. Bedouin Arabia culture in the 7th century AD Religious presences (Christians, Jews, Zoroastrians) in the Arabian Peninsula. Birth of the prophet and theories concerning the period. Childhood of the prophet. Prophet education: family and tribal influences. Youth and travels of the prophet, his encounters with the religions and cultures of neighboring countries. The monotheistic tradition in Arabia. Meeting with Kadhigia, the first wife.

Etivity 1 (10 hours of study)

2. Module 2 - (25-hour study for video lessons - week 4-6)

Retreat of the prophet in meditation on Mount Hira. The first revelation and the disturbance of the prophet. Subsequent revelations and subsequent conversions. The exclusively religious dimension of the first revelations. First contrasts between Muhammad and the Mecca polytheists. First definitions of Islamic doctrine and of the uniqueness and exclusiveness of Allah. Attempted conciliation attempts between monotheism and polytheism (satanic verses). First migration of Muslims to the Negus. Muhammad's difficulties in the Mecca environment. The "economic" question of the pilgrimage to Mecca.

Etivity 2 (10 hours of study)

3. Module 3 - (35-hour study for video lessons - week 7-9)

Escape of the prophet and his followers in Medina. Muhammad's role in the multi-religious community of Medina. Muhammad religious policy leader in Medina. The prophetic's conflicting relationships with the Jewish community of Medina. The first military incursions of the Islamic community against the Mecca caravans. The role of war in the development of the first Islam. The configuration of Islam as a religious, political, moral doctrine. The "socio-political" character of the Medina suras. The gradual affirmation of Mohammed in the context of Medina. The contrasts with the Jews culminated

in the expulsion or killing of the same. The return and the conquest of Mecca. The beginning of the Islamization of Arabia.

Activity 3 (10 hours of study)

Self-assessment test (5 hours study)

4. Module 4 - (30-hour study for video lessons - week 10-11)

The death of the prophet and the problem of succession. The four well-guided caliphs. The contrasts within the first Islam. The claim to the succession of the prophet by Ali and the birth of the Shiite current. The collection of revelations in the holy book of Islam, the Koran. The birth of the Sunna, the Tradition of the prophet. The definition of Islamic doctrine. Sharia. The definition of the five Arkans (fundamental principles of Islam). Characteristics of contemporary Islam, through a series of recent studies. Islam in Italy, its components and characteristics. Comments on some documents in the 2016-2017 statistical report on immigration.

Activity 4 (10 hours of study)

Self-assessment test (5 hours study)

Evaluation system and criteria

There are two standard methods: the examination in presence that takes place almost every month in Rome; this one is for all students. On this occasion, the student's study path will be verified, through the ITEMS of the learning path and the ability that the student has, not only to understand the teaching given, but also to elaborate autonomously some notions and data, offered in the course and with other training and verification methods. It is also offered to the student the opportunity to carry out research on the topics of the course, which will then be discussed during the examination. For students of external locations, the test consists of three themes, which may relate to specific parts of the course, but also broader issues, which concern basic issues and overall assessments, for example on some characters of the first Islam, on the differences among various contemporary Muslim contexts, etc. For those who support this exam (tests with response options), not only the individual answers to the various tests will be evaluated, but also the knowledge of fundamental issues, to which some questions refer.

The issues addressed in the course of the e-activity that fall within the final assessment can be the subject of an examination request.

Bibliography and resources

In addition to the video lessons there is a series of attachments. A reference bibliography is also indicated and the study of the text by Claudio LO JACONO, Maometto is recommended. For the preparation of the exam it is also recommended to consult the website www.musulmaniitalia.it - edited by the professor. In particular the section on: the clichés on Islam and the chronological historical section. Initiatives such as the visit of a mosque with the professor's guidance are also provided.

Criteria for the assignment of the final paper

The final paper is assigned to all students who request it, without any prejudice, according with times and methods of execution, which are indicated on the platform. The student is informed that his paper will be subjected to a plagiarism test. Specific indications are also given on the minimum number of pages of the paper and on the use of bibliographic references. There is a limited use of web sources and the criteria for selecting them are indicated.