Course description

Within the last years, Islam has become the subject of much public debate and discourse in the Western World as well as a core research topic within various social science disciplines. This course will take a closer look at Muslims and Islam in Europe and will try to analyze and discuss the present conditions of Muslims living in Europe from a socio-anthropological perspective. In order to do so, Islam will first be introduced from a general perspective, including a visit to a representative mosque in Berlin, in order to provide the basic theological pillars of Islam as a religion. The first sessions of the course will provide an overview of theories of cultural difference and secularism. Having established this theoretical foundation, the following sessions will look at various public discourses regarding Islam and Muslims in Europe. Here issues such as relations between Islam and secular states, gender aspects, and everyday religious practices of Muslims in Europe will be closely examined and analyzed. We will also engage in a critical analysis of certain public controversies regarding Islam.

Student profile
Second-semester sophomore or above

Prerequisites
None

Course Requirements
Attendance, Participation and Independent Project Report: 20%
Midterm exam: 20%
Final Paper: 30%
Final Exam: 30%

Literature
  • Course Reader
**Course schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SESSIONS</th>
<th>TOPICS, READINGS, etc.</th>
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| **Session 1** | Introduction to the topic and the course program.  
Video: “Inside Islam” |
| **Session 2** | **Topic: Approaching Islam**  
| **Session 3** | **Rituals and Practices in the Islamic World**  
| **Session 4** | **Topic: “Europe and Islam as ‘the Other’**  
| **Session 5** | **Topic: Religion within a modern and secular world.**  
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<th>Session 6</th>
<th>Mid-term exam</th>
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| Session 7 | Topic: Women and Islam in the West  
Sarah Bracke und Nadia Fadil (2012): „‘Is the Headscarf Oppressive or Emancipatory?’ Field Notes from the Multicultural Debate”, in: *Religion and Gender* 2(1): 36-56  

| Session 8 | Topic: Public Controversies of Islam in Europe  

| Session 9 | Excursion to Şehitlik-Mosque (Berlin Türk Şehitlik Camii), Neukölln, Columbiadamm (bus stop “Friedhöfe Columbiadamm”, Bus 104) |

| Session 10 | Topic: New Muslim Identities within Public Debates on Islam  
| Session 11 | **Topic: Everyday Religious Practices of Muslims in Europe**  
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| Session 12 | **Topic: So, is there a 'Muslim Question' in Europe?**  
| Session 13 | **Final exam** |