# Arabic Language and Culture

Professor Martino Diez

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide students the tools to read and understand the Qur’an in Italian translation.

At the end of the course, students will know the major themes of the Qur’an, the main events in the life of Muhammad, and some elements of theology and Islamic law.

***COURSE CONTENT***

– The status of the Qur’an within Islam;

– Main facts in the life of Muhammad and chronological arrangement of the Qur’an;

– Islamic eschatology;

– God and man in the Qur’an;

– Prophetism: Moses and Abraham;

– Elements of Qur’anic ethics and jurisprudence: general principles, personal status, organisation of society;

– Mary and Jesus in the Qur’an;

– The Qur’an of the Shiites;

– Fixation and tradition of the Qur’anic text.

***READING LIST***

A: The Qur’an

A1. Text

Read the full text of the Qur’an, including the notes, in one of the following two translations:

*Il Corano,* translation by A. Bausani, BUR, Milan, 1988.

*Il Corano,* translation by I. Zilio-Grandi, Mondadori, Milan, 2010.

A2. Tools

– Lecturer’s notes (available at the reprographics department);

A3. Studies

A. Bausani, *L’Islam,* Garzanti, Milano, 1999.

Introduction to *Il Corano*, translation by A. Bausani, BUR, Milan, 1988, XVII-LXXIX;

A4. *Further readings (optional)*

Gabriel Said Reynolds, *Allah: God in the Qur’an*, Yale University Press, New Haven (CT) 2020.

Mohammad Ali Amir-Moezzi, *Dizionario del Corano*, trad.it. I. Zilio-Grandi (edited by), Mondadori, Milano, 2007.

– Read the following items: «Allāh», «escatologia coranica», «grido», «bilancia», «resurrezione», «Urì ed efebi», «Verbo Creatore», «creazione», «natura innata», «dogma», «profeti e profetologia», «intercessione», «Adamo», «Mosè», «Khadir “il verdeggiante”», «Abramo», «Genti del Libro», «Sharī‘a», «interdizioni alimentari», «donna», «guerra e pace», «Maria», «meriti del Corano».

In addition, two of the following items from the *Dizionario del Corano*: Noè, Lot, Giacobbe, Isacco e Ismaele, Giuseppe, Saul, Davide, Salomone, Elia, Eliseo, Giona, ‘Ād, Thamūd, Luqmān, Dhū al-Kifl, Dhū al-Qarnayn, Idrīs, Zaccaria, Giovanni Battista.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam. Students will be asked three questions, each of equal weight:

1. They will be required to read a Qur’anic passage (in translation), comment on it, and elaborate on one of the major themes of the Quran, such as: image of God in the Qur’an, notion of man, prophetism, life of Muhammad etc.
2. This will be followed by a specific question about basic tenets of Islam: e.g. rules of prayer, family law, legal status of non-Muslims...
3. Lastly, students will be required to present one of the aspects of Islamic civilisation explained during the course (e.g. Islamic law, theology, mysticism etc.)

The final mark will be the average mark for each single question.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

No prior knowledge of Arabic and Middle Eastern history and culture is required. Students are advised to take the Theology course at the same time.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG, or on the Faculty notice board.