# Islamic Studies

## Prof. Paolo Luigi Branca

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

The course aims to deliver basic knowledge on the dawn, development and current state of Islamic civilisation by furnishing students with the relevant concepts and critical tools.

*Knowledge and understanding*

By the end of the course, students will be able to identify themes, figures and schools of religious thought in the Muslim world. They will transcend predominant monolithic representations of these considerations by connecting them to historical phases and cultural development in the various relevant regions and eras.

*Applying knowledge and understanding*

By undertaking specific case studies, such as the schools of theology and jurisprudence, internal distinctions such as Sunni and Shiite and expressions of Islamic spirituality (Sufism), students will be able to understand issues and techniques that are specific to the Islamic context and influence its relations with other religious traditions.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. Ancient Arabia and the origins of Islam.
2. The Prophet and the Quran.
3. The Sunnah.
4. Theological thought and its schools over time.
5. Sources and schools of Islamic law.
6. Sufism.
7. Modern and contemporary schools of Islamic thought.

***READING LIST***

Course textbook (required reading):

P. Branca, *Introduzione all’islam,* S. Paolo, Milan, 1995.

Optional reading:

H.C. Puech, *Storia dell’islamismo,* Mondadori, Milan, 1993.

A. Bausani, *Islam,* Garzanti, Milan, 1999.

L. Gardet, *Gli uomini dell'Islam,* Jaca Book, Milan, 1981

H. Laoust, *Gli scismi nell’Islam,* Ecig, Genoa, 1990.

G.E. von Grunebaum, *L’Islam,* Mondadori, Milan, 1990.

W. Ende-U. Steinbach*,* *L’islam oggi*, EDB, Bologna, 1991.

A. Schimmel, *L’Islam,* EDB, Bologna, 1992.

R. Schulze, *Il mondo islamico nel XX secolo,* Feltrinelli, Milan, 1998.

D. Waines, *Introduzione all’Islam,* Le Lettere, Florence, 1998.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures and class discussions.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam, in which they must demonstrate their ability to make links between historical phenomena and cultural dynamics in their respective contexts.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

In the event that the health emergency should continue, both teaching activities and any forms of learning monitoring, both in progress and final, will be provided also remotely through our University's BlackBoard platform, the Microsoft Teams platform and any other tools envisaged and notified at the beginning of the course, so as to ensure the full achievement of the formative objectives set out in the study plans and, at the same time, the safety of our students.

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.