

Guidelines for grading:  
SOSANT 2026: The Anthropology of Contemporary Islam

The course addresses how Islam is lived and understood as a majority and minority practice and as an identity in different parts of the world. Drawing on texts that are grounded in ethnographic analysis on a range of different Muslim communities, the students are expected to engage and incorporate global, transnational and migratory trends that have shaped the development of distinct social, economic and political attitudes of Muslims living in the Muslim world and as minorities in non-Muslim countries.

Students are expected to steer away from pathologies associated with Muslim practices and instead focus on Muslims navigating everyday life. The course builds on active preparation and participation on the part of the students. To this end the seminars consist of obligatory written assignments and presentations. Students are required to write and present a one-page paper on a chosen topic that is linked to the reading list. The aim of the paper and the presentation is to assist in guiding the students' readings. In the written paper and presentation students are expected to draw out how an aspect of Muslim everyday life is discussed in at least 2 texts.

For the paper and presentation, students can choose among four topics linked to the reading list: faith-based practice, gender, consumption, and fashion. The exam will select three questions from these topics, which students should be well prepared to discuss in depth. They are expected to draw on John Bowen's book *A New Anthropology of Islam* to demonstrate how theoretical themes in anthropology inform our understanding of Islam as Muslims live it in their everyday lives. For the second and third exam questions, on gender and consumption respectively, the students must draw on at least three texts from their reading list to support an analysis of how the authors make use of anthropological knowledge pertaining to those topics. For all three exam questions, the students will be rewarded for drawing out the complexities of diversity among Muslim communities.