

Examiner's Guide for the course RESA3221 – Spring 2025

Introduction

The course RESA3221 What the Qur'an Says: Translation, Interpretation and Society is a BA/MA-level course that studies modern Qur'anic hermeneutics and explores relationships between interpretation, translation and socio-ethical questions.

To be admitted to the exam, students must complete two mandatory assignments, one written individual assignment and one oral group presentation. For each assignment, the students must choose a topic and a theoretical framework discussed in the seminars and/or course literature.

For a general description of the course, see

<https://www.uio.no/studier/emner/teologi/tf/RESA3221/>

For the teaching this semester, see

<https://www.uio.no/studier/emner/teologi/tf/RESA3221/v25/timeplan/index.html>

Assessment Criteria

The course is an introduction to the Qur'an that touches upon questions in Qur'anic hermeneutics and translation. The students are not expected to fully master Qur'anic studies terminology or have a comprehensive overview of the field of contemporary Qur'an interpretation. The students are expected to demonstrate the ability to discuss the role of the Qur'an in meeting with contemporary societies and to pose critical questions to assumptions and one-sided views of the Qur'anic text. In the assessment, a higher level of knowledge and independent reflection is expected from the MA-level students than from the BA-level students.

The general assessment criteria for both groups are:

1. The ability to show awareness of the complexity of the interrelationships between the interpretation, translation and societal reception of the Qur'an.
2. The ability to identify interpretive strategies in contemporary Qur'anic hermeneutics.
3. The ability to critically and independently reflect upon and active engage with the course literature, discussing and questioning claims and arguments.
4. The ability to present different and/or conflicting approaches and interpretations in a balanced and informed manner.
5. The ability to substantiate claims and arguments and to clearly distinguish between arguments taken from the literature and one's own ideas and arguments.
6. The ability to create a coherent text in a clear language, fulfilling the formal requirements in the exam assignment instructions and the general requirements of academic writing.