

RESA4220 Islam, Gender and Sexuality Guidelines for examiners, SPRING 2023

Course administrator Tonje Baugerud

Portfolio

Students will submit a portfolio that consists of 3 assignments: (1) book review (20%), (2) mid-term paper (30%), and (3) research paper (50%).

Learning outcomes

- In-depth knowledge of interpretive approaches in the study of Islam, gender and sexuality
- In-depth understanding about the complexity of Islamic discourses on gender and sexuality
- Development of theoretical and methodological tools for analysing ideologies of gender and sexuality in Islam
- Critical thinking around contemporary issues of social justice, gender equality and sexual diversity
- Development of research and writing skills

Formal requirements

The portfolio consists of:

One book review of 1000-1200 words based on a monograph chosen by the student. The book review should count 20% of the final grade.

One mid-term paper of 2000-2500 words on the topic “Drawing on the book Homosexuality in Islam - Critical Reflections on Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Muslims discuss a) some of the hermeneutical moves developed and/or employed by Scott Siraj al-Haqq Kugle, and b) the possible implications of these ‘moves’ for believers’ lived reality”. The mid-term paper should count 30 % of the final grade.

One research paper of 3500-4000 words, investigating in-depth a topic related to Islam, gender and sexuality. The research paper should count 50 % of the final grade.

All three components (book review, mid-term paper and research paper) must be approved in order to pass the exam.

General assessment criteria

The portfolio exam genre invites the students to be creative and to produce original work. The students will be awarded for demonstrating ability to reflect and for providing substantial rational for angle. General assessment criteria for all three portfolio components are:

- Coherent, clear language
- The ability to develop arguments
- Independent engagement with theoretical concepts

Specific assessment criteria

Book review

The student:

- Offers a factual presentation of the book's overall project, main theme, research question, theory and method, and results
- Provides independent reflections related to the content
- Could provide personal opinion balanced with professional assessment
- Could relate the book to the overall concerns of RESA4220

Mid-term paper

The student:

- Is able to define which aspects of Kugle's book that they see as relevant, and make a substantial argument for this
- Defines what a hermeneutical move is, and exemplifies by using Kugle's tactics
- Could differentiate between which hermeneutical moves Kugle develops and which he employs
- Provides independent examples of how Kugle's work can be of relevance for believer's lived reality
- Could problematize different aspects of Kugle's project

Research paper

The student

- Formulates independent and clear research question, with evident relevance for RESA4220 Islam, gender and sexuality
- Provides a literature review, situating the paper within existing literature related to the research question, demonstrating key ideas and debates and how this paper contributes to this knowledge
- Outlines the method employed and provides an overview of the material
- Presents theoretical concepts and tools

- Analyzes and discusses the presented material, presenting a coherent argument in relation to the research question. The theoretical perspectives are actively engaged.

Syllabus

There are no formal requirements for syllabus related to the research paper, students may engage broadly with scholarly work related to the field of Islam, gender and sexuality. For the mid-term paper, Scott Siraj al-Haqq Kugle's book is the main syllabus, however, students might draw from other parts of the syllabus, in particular the syllabus related to "interpretive possibilities". For the book review, it is not expected that the students engage with other sources than the book to be reviewed.