



TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

Course Syllabus Winter 2014

CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM: THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION THEO 0785/ MISS 0785

JANUARY 16 – APRIL 10, 2014
THURSDAYS 6:30-9:20 PM

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To access your course materials, go to your Tyndale email account:

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Events in the fall of 2001 brought Islam and Muslims to the forefront of world attention. For several decades Islam has been growing rapidly around the globe. Today, Islam is the second largest religion with 1.4 billion people. You no longer have to go to Asia or the Middle East to see mosques; they are springing up all across Canada. Your next-door neighbor may be a Muslim. During the 1990s Muslim population in Canada increased by 158%. During the last two decades, events in the Muslim world have affected the globe politically and economically. Islam as a religion and a political force is experiencing a noteworthy resurgence.

This course will offer a comprehensive study of Islam: its main teachings and beliefs. We will study the social and political impact of Islam on our contemporary world. A variety of topics such as the role of women, the struggle in the way of God or *jihad* will be explored. Special emphases will be given to understanding theological differences between the Christian faith and Islam. Human nature and sin, the person and work of Christ, the Christian Trinity and the trustworthiness of the Bible will be covered and reflected upon theologically.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students should:

- a) Have a grasp of basic Islamic beliefs and practices. This study covers the Islamic understanding of God, prophet(s), revealed scripture(s), angels and eschatology. Religious practices include profession of faith, prayer, fasting, almsgiving and pilgrimage.
- b) Understand the role of the Islamic community in the contemporary world. The way in which the Islamic community understood itself and its role vis-a-vis other religious communities and traditions. The struggle between modernization and Islamic fundamentalism. The position of women and minorities in contemporary society. We will focus on the current process of Islamization, especially in North America.
- c) Be able to understand and reflect theologically on the main theological differences between Islam and Christianity. Special emphasis will be given to the monotheistic message of the Qur'an and its implications on the Islamic understanding of the deity of Christ and the Christian Trinity.
- d) Be able to communicate effectively with Muslim people and better explain the Good News of the Gospel.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

Braswell, George W. *Islam: Its Prophet, Peoples, Politics and Power*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996.

Geisler, Norman L. Abdul Saleeb. *Answering Islam*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997.

B. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. **Class Presentation:** 20% of final grade.

Careful completion of the assigned readings **in advance**, in conjunction with class presentation, (10 minutes).

It is expected that students will read all of the assigned reading prior to the scheduled class. Students are required to contribute to class discussion in a meaningful way: in order to do this, each student will have to have read the material carefully and arrive at the discussion with insights upon the text and thoughtful questions for discussion.

In your presentation make sure to identify and clarify the main ideas or arguments presented by the author, and provide questions for class discussion. A sign-up list will be available on the first day of class.

2. **Mid-term Examination:** Thursday, February 20, 2014; 30% of Final Mark
3. **Term Paper or Final Project:** Due on Wednesday, April 3, 2014; 50% of the final grade.

Write on a selected subject from the main topics covered in the course.

The research paper will be evaluated on the basis of:

- Clarity of thought
- Structure and content
- Accuracy
- Comprehensiveness

The research paper should demonstrate thoughtful reflection, analysis, and should embody a conceptual argument in which various angles of the topic are explored in fairness and at length. The paper should be in the range of 15-20 pages in length or 3,750-5,000 words.

C. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students should consult the current [Academic Calendar](#) for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System.

For proper citation style, consult the [Chicago-Style Quick Guide](#) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), especially [ch. 14](#). For citing scripture texts, refer to sections 10.46 to 10.51 and 14.253 to 14.254.

D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Class Presentation	20%
Mid-term examination	30%
Term paper or final project	50%
Total Grade	100 %

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT, AND REQUIRED READINGS

Week One

Introduction

Understanding Islam and Muslims

Readings

Braswell Chapter 1 "Understanding Islam"

Week Two

The Expansion of Islam

Readings

Braswell Chapter 3 "The Expansion of Islam"

Week Three

Mohammed: His Personal Life and his Role in the Formation of the Islamic Community.

Readings

Braswell: Chapter 2 "The Prophet Mohammed: The Man and His Mission"

Geisler: Chapter 3 "Prophets"

Chapter 4 "Mohammed"

Chapter 8 "An Evaluation of Mohammed"

Week Four

Basic Islamic Beliefs

Readings

Braswell: Chapter 4 "Islamic Theology"

Geisler: Chapter 5 "The Qur'an"

Chapter 9 "An Evaluation of the Qur'an"

Week Five

Religious Life and Practice I

Readings

Braswell: Chapter 5 "Islamic Devotion"

Geisler: Chapter 2 “The Islamic View of Creation and Man”

Video Presentation: “The Hajj: A Journey of Faith”

Week Six

Religious Life and Practice II

Readings

Geisler: Chapter 6 “End times and Salvation”

Week Seven

The Muslim Community

Readings

Braswell: Chapter 6 “Islamic Institutions, Religious Authority, Sectarianism”
Chapter 7 “Muslim Morals and Manners”

Video Presentation: Women in Islam

Week Eight

Islam in Contemporary World

Readings

Braswell: Chapter 8 “Islamic Answers to Contemporary Issues”
Chapter 9 “Global Islam”
Chapter 10 “Muslims in America: A Growing Religion”

Video Presentation: “Muslims in America”

Week Nine

Islamic Monotheism and the Christian Trinity

Readings

Geisler: Chapter 1 “Understanding Islamic Monotheism”
Chapter 7 “An Evaluation of Islamic Monotheism”
Chapter 12 “A Defense of the Trinity”

Week Ten

The Deity of Christ and Salvation

Readings

Geisler: Chapter 11 “A Defense of the Deity of Christ”
Chapter 13 “A Defense of Salvation by the Cross”

Week Eleven

The Trustworthiness of the Bible

Readings

Geisler: Chapter 10 "A Defense of the Bible"
Appendix 3 "The Gospel of Barnabas"
Appendix 4 "Popular Muslim Accusations Against the New Testament"

Week Twelve

The Christian Responsibility towards Muslims

Readings

Braswell: Chapter 11 "The Encounter between Islam and Christianity"
Chapter 12 "Islam Review and Preview"

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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An-Na'im, Abdullahi A. "Religious Minorities under Islamic Law and the Limits of Cultural Relativism," Human Rights Quarterly, Vol. 19.

Askari, Hassan. "Dialogical Relationship between Christianity and Islam," Journal of Ecumenical Studies (Philadelphia) 9, No. 3 (1972).

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- Moucarry, Chawkat. *Faith to Faith: Christianity & Islam in Dialogue*. Nottingham: IVP, 2007.
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