Course Description:
The purpose of this course is to provide a comprehensive introduction to the history, culture, traditions, beliefs and practices of Islam. The various historical manifestations of contemporary Islam will be explored including the rise of modern Islamic Fundamentalism. The text of the Qur’an will be studied in chronological order and we will observe and discuss together the development of various doctrines that formed within the changing context of the early Islamic community in Mecca and Medina. The theology and culture of Islamic thought will be compared to that of Evangelical Christianity as a means of more effectively understanding both. This course will also integrate the professor’s practical experience of working with Muslims in the hope of exploring ways the gospel can be most effectively communicated to members of the Islamic faith, the second largest and fastest growing religion in the world today.

Required Textbooks:
Riddell, Peter G. and Peter Cotterell. Islam in Context. Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, MI.

Selected Journal Articles:
_____. “Misunderstanding C-5; His Ways are not Our Orthodoxy.” Evangelical Missions Quarterly 40, no. 3 (July 2004): 296-304.

Requirements of Course:

1. Research Paper

You are to submit a research paper on a topic of your choosing, although it must meet the following standards to be acceptable:

1. It must be on a subject matter related to the course material.
2. A thesis statement must be submitted by October 18th at class time. This thesis statement should also note at least five sources and it must be received back with approval from the professor.
3. The paper must be a minimum of twelve typed pages (double space, 12 pt. type) long, following acceptable standards of form and style. A cover sheet will be provided by the professor which outlines the specific criteria by which the paper will be graded.
4. Your paper must be prefaced with a synopsis of your entire paper which should not exceed 100 words as well as a detailed outline of the entire paper.
5. It must be turned in by November 19th.
6. The professor reserves the right to deduct 5% from the grade if the paper is submitted late.

2. Apologetic Response

Each student must choose ONE of the following choices:

1. Interview a Muslim and discuss your faith in Jesus Christ. What are the major objections that the Muslim has to Christianity or the Christian faith? What confusions about the Christian gospel did you detect in the conversation. Submit a report of your interview which answers the two questions.

2. Spend at least five hours witnessing to Muslims and write a report of your experience.

Note: The above two projects can easily be fulfilled through a single trip to Harvard Square, an area mosque, a dialogue meeting, or the Turkish Cultural Center. There are thousands of Muslims who live, study and work within immediate driving distance of the Seminary.

3. Choose five key challenges which Islam poses against the Christian faith and write up a cogent, theologically informed, apologetic response to each of the five challenges. For example, a key challenge could be an issue like the so-called “corruptible Bible” or the challenge that Christians are not monotheists, etc…

The apologetic response is due by December 3rd. The professor reserves the right to deduct 5% from the grade if work is submitted late.

3. Final Exam

There will be a FINAL EXAM covering the lectures and readings in this course. The Final Exam will occur between Dec. 13th and Dec. 17th as per the Registrar’s schedule.

4. Reading of Textbooks
On the last day of classes you will be asked to turn in the reading assignments list showing the reading you completed for the course.

5. Attendance
Perfect attendance is encouraged and will greatly enhance your ability to perform well on the exams and comprehend the daily readings. In consideration of the rest of the class, please TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES during the instructional period.

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading of textbooks</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apologetic Response</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Grading Scale is as follows:
A+: 100-97; A: 96-94; A-: 90-93; B+: 89-87; B: 86-84; B-: 83-80;
C+: 79-77; C: 76-74; C-: 73-70; D+: 69-67; D: 66-64; D-: 63-60
F: 59-0

Review of Key Dates:
Oct. 18th Thesis statements due
Nov. 19th Research Papers Due
Dec. 3rd Apologetic Response Due
Dec. 9th Reading Report due
TBA Final Exam (see Registrar’s Office)

Course Schedule of Topics:
Introduction to Course
Islam in the context of the 21st century
Pre-Islamic Arabia
Mohammad, the Prophet and the rise of Islam
Qur’an: The foundation of the Islamic World-View
Central Articles of Islamic Da’wah vs Jihad in Islamic thought
Historical Development of Islam after Mohammad
Role of Tradition: Hadith, Sunna and Isnad
Role of Tradition and the Islamic Shari’a
Sharia, fatwa, and quiya
The Gate of Ijtihad and other issues related to Islamic views of revelation
Schools of Law in Sunni and Shia tradition
Mystical Islam, Sufi brotherhoods and folk Islam
Case Study: The practice of Islam in the African context
Case Studies in Islamic Church Planting
Theological Spotlight: Allah vs. God: terminology and meaning
Theological Spotlight: Insider Movements. Is C-5 the way ahead?
Islamic Fundamentalism
Islam as a Religion of Peace / Why is Osama bin Laden Angry?
Witnessing to Muslims in the modern world
Select Bibliography


**DON’T FORGET THE CD’S IN THE LIBRARY**: For example the wonderful ten volume, *Encyclopedia of Islam* is available on CD!