WM 726 Ministry to Folk Muslims

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary  Spring 2012
Instructor:  Paul T. Martindale, D.Min.  Wed/Fri 10:45 to 12:15

Course Description:
Folk Muslims are those who combine their practice of Islam with a belief in unseen spirits and powers. It is estimated that 85% of all Muslims resort to occult practices for help, blessing, protection, or to appease the spirits. Effective ministry to Folk Muslims must include an awareness of their animistic context including their beliefs, practices, and the spiritual bondage that results. It is essential in working with new believers from this background that we be fully acquainted with spiritual warfare, power encounters, inner healing, and deliverance ministry in order to lead them out of their animistic worldview and its associated occult practices. Topics include: ministry in the Kingdom of God, western worldviews and spiritual power, power encounters, deliverance, spiritual warfare, inner healing, the relationship between power, allegiance and truth encounters, and the beliefs and practices of Folk Muslims. A number of case studies from the readings and from field experience will be presented. The format of the class will include discussions based upon assigned readings.

Course Objectives: As a result of this course students will:
1. Develop an awareness of the influence of animistic belief and practice upon a Muslim’s daily life. Identify and explain the principal assumptions and worldview unique to Folk Islam and animistic religions
2. Understand the spiritual challenges westerners face when relating to Folk Muslims.
3. Understand the nature and dynamics of ministry in animistic contexts.
4. Be able to evaluate biblically an animistic society’s beliefs and practices. Develop a holistic and biblical view of ministry including a theology of spiritual gifts and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
5. Be able to identify the origins and limitations in your own culturally-conditioned worldview and how this might influence the communication of the gospel into a Folk Muslim’s frame of references.
6. Learn to creatively interpret the gospel message into the worldview and thought categories of the Folk Muslim.
7. Be able to evaluate the potential effectiveness of various contextual models of ministry to animists.

Requirements of Course:

1. Research Project
Choose a Muslim country, people group, or mystical sect of Islam and look for articles on the practices and institutions of Folk Islam. This will normally include saint veneration, holy places, special power events like festivals, healing rituals, spirit practitioners like Imams or Merabouts, pilgrimages, fortune tellers, amulets used, particular beliefs like evil eye, and rituals or objects used for blessing and protection. Describe these practices, institutions, beliefs, and spirit worldview of these Muslims. Try to determine from what has been
published whether women, men, or both are the most common participants. Describe the spirit-worldview of this group or country and what aspects of the gospel message you think would be particularly relevant to them. Write this up in a paper of 6 to 8 pages in length, double-spaced, using 12 pt. type. Include a cover sheet listing your name, mailbox #, title of course, and the country name. Use endnotes or footnotes to cite sources and include a Bibliography listing all sources cited in the paper. The paper is due on April 13\textsuperscript{th}. The research done for this project can be used for the Reflection Paper described below.

2. Reflection Paper
In regards to ministry with Folk Muslims what is a biblical worldview, your philosophy of ministry, and your idea of best practices for working in an animistic context? Include a section on how the Bible addresses the needs of Folk Muslims and how a western-secularized approach to ministry would need to be adapted or changed to fit the context of ministry with Folk Muslims. The paper should be double-spaced using 12 pt. type. It should be 8 to 12 pages in length with a cover sheet listing your name, mailbox #, title of course, and title of the paper. Use endnotes or footnotes to cite sources and include a Bibliography listing all sources cited in the paper. The reflection paper is due on Friday May 4\textsuperscript{th}.

3. Final Exam
There will be a final exam covering the lectures and readings in this course. The final exam will occur on the last day of classes, Friday May 4\textsuperscript{th}.

4. Reading of Textbooks and Articles
On the last day of our class you must submit your reading list documenting all 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.

6. Grading
Reading of assigned texts and articles 20%
Research Project 20%
Reflection Paper 30%
Final Exam 30%
100% total

The Grading Scale used in this class is as follows:
A+, 100-97; A, 96-94; A-, 93-90; 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, 0-69

7. Review of Key Dates:
2/01 First class
2/20 to 2/24 Reading week
3/26 to 3/30 Reading Week
4/13 Research Project due
5/04 Reflection paper due
5/04 Last class, reading reports due
8. Course Schedule of Topics:
1. Worldview. Western, Hebrew, and Animist worldview paradigms.
2. Cultural Exegesis. Learning to communicate from within the receptor frameworks of theology, culture, and worldview.
3. The Spirit World of Islam. The beliefs and practices of Folk Muslims.
4. Animistic practices described in the Old and New Testaments.
5. Sin and Salvation in Christianity and Animism.
7. Power Encounters on the Mission Field. The role of healing, deliverance, dreams, and visions and their place in God’s mission in new cultures and societies.
9. The place of power and authority in the ministry of Jesus. Christ the Victor.
10. Analysis of ministry models using power encounters.
12. Understanding the activity of Satan and demons.
13. The Qur’an as magic.
15. The practice of deliverance.
18. Sufi beliefs and practices (cont’d).

9. Required Reading: Books:

10. Required Reading: Articles:
11. Recommend Supplemental Reading:


12. Bibliography:


Oldenberg, Ulf. 1969. The Conflict between El and Ba’Al in Canaanite Religion, Leiden, Brill


