The Theology of Islam and its Implications for Ministry to Muslims

WM 725

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Summer 2017
Professor of Record: Dr. Paul T. Martindale
Other Course Instructors: Feruza Krason, and Rev. Elijah Moumen

Course Description:
This course is a comprehensive introduction to the theology of Islam and the implications for ministry to Muslims. In order to communicate effectively with religious Muslims we must be able to understand from within their own theological worldview and tradition what Islam teaches. This enables us to understand how Muslims interpret the Christian faith and life and how we must creatively interpret the Biblical message into the Muslim’s theological frame of reference. The student will be able to evaluate the theological views of Islam in relation to Christianity and to develop a biblical view of Islam and ministry to Muslims.

Classes for this course will be held at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary from May 25th through June 2nd. This course will be treated as a full summer course at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary with all the same deadlines for final exams and written work. About half of the class is typically made up of newly appointed missionaries from mission organizations and engaged laypersons from around the country. Some take this for credit as a course and others take it as a prefield training program requirement. Those attending this course from the outside know this program as The Summer Institute on Islam.

Course Objectives: As a result of this course students will:
1. Have a good working knowledge of the traditions, ideology, theology, beliefs, and practices of Muslims today.
2. Understand the religious, political, social, cultural, and theological development of Islam and its institutions.
3. Analyze and appreciate the historical and theological context of the development of Jihad, shariah law, and the early believer community in Islam.
4. Examine the role of Mohammed in the development of Islam as a religion, political state, and community.
5. Understand the Islamic worldview and theological frame of reference from which the Muslim understands Christianity in order to more accurately evaluate how Christian doctrines have been distorted in their understanding and writing.
6. Evaluate Muslim objections against the Trinity, Deity of Christ, Crucifixion, and Atonement, and formulate appropriate responses.
7. Be stretched in their understanding and appreciation of the Bible, Christian doctrine, and the gospel message by developing a biblical understanding and response to Islam.

Requirements of the Course:

1. Mosque Visit Reflection Paper
On Friday afternoon we will be visiting several different mosques in groups. Report on your experience in this mosque and compare it to the experiences of the other groups in the class.
You will need to take notes during the mosque debriefing session. Describe the physical layout of the mosque, what the service was like, what topic the Imam preached on, your impression of Muslim prayer and what you could observe about the Muslim’s understanding of sanctified space and corporate prayer. If you have the opportunity to interact with Muslims at the mosque use this as a time to observe and ask questions rather than try to witness. The paper should be double spaced using 12 pt. type. It should be about 5 pages in length. Include a cover sheet listing your name, mail box #, title of course, and title of the paper.

2. Research Paper
Choose one of the topics in the course as the subject of a research paper. Describe how the Muslim person understands this topic, how that may differ from traditional Islamic teaching of that topic, whether Muslims misunderstand the Christian doctrine or point of view on that topic, and how you would go about developing a Christian apologetic to communicate accurately to the Muslim person a biblical understanding of that topic. Examples would be the Trinity, the Crucifixion, the divinity of Christ, the Atonement, etc. The paper should be double spaced using 12 pt. type. It should be about 10 pages in length with a cover sheet listing your name, mail box #, title of course, and title of the paper. Use footnotes to cite sources and include a Bibliography listing all sources cited in the paper.

3. Final Exam
There will be a final exam covering the lectures and readings in this course. The professor will provide the final exam to you via email when you are ready to take it.

4. Reading of Textbooks and Articles
By the last day for written work you must submit your reading list documenting all required 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 and avoid doing email or internet browsing.

6. Grading

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading of assigned texts and articles</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosque Visit Reflection Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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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. Class schedule and topics:

**DAILY TIMETABLE:** First class 8:30 AM - 10:00; Break 10:00 - 10:30, Second class 10:30 –12:00; Afternoon Class 2:00 - 3:30. Afternoon video & discussion session 4:00 - 5:30 PM.

**Thursday–May 25th**

**AM**
- Islamic Doctrine of God. Dr. Paul Martindale.
- Islamic Doctrine of Man. Dr. Paul Martindale.

**PM**
**Friday – May 26th**
AM  Orientation for Mosque visit. Dr. Paul Martindale.
    Muslim Ideology, Jihad, and Contemporary Movements in Islam Dr. Paul Martindale
PM  Class visit to a local mosque. Dr. Paul Martindale.
    Debrief from Mosque Visit (3:30 to 5:00 PM). Paul Martindale.

**Saturday – May 27th**
AM  My Journey from Islam to Christ in Uzbekistan. Feruza Krason
    Ministry to Muslim Women and Families. Feruza Krason
PM  Enjoy Boston and Cape Ann!

**Sunday – May 28th**
    No classes scheduled. Day off for worship, relaxing, and sight-seeing

**Monday – May 29th**
AM  Islamic Doctrine of Prophets and Scriptures. Dr. Paul Martindale.
    Coming to Christ from Wahabbi Islam. Rev. Elijah Moumen
PM  Muslim Objections: Crucifixion, Atonement, & Prophecies of Mohammed. Rev. Elijah Moumen

**Tuesday – May 30th**
AM  Responding to Muslim Objections: Son of God & Trinity. Rev. Elijah Moumen
    Debunking Islamic History and Tradition. Rev. Elijah Moumen
PM  Understanding the Muslim Mind. Barriers to the Gospel. Rev. Elijah Moumen

**Wednesday – May 31st**
AM  Answering Muslim Objections: Corruption & Abrogation. Rev. Elijah Moumen
    Spiritual Power in Ministry with Muslims. Dr. Paul Martindale
PM  Making Sense of Contextualization in Ministry to Muslims. Dr. Paul Martindale

**Thursday – June 1st**
AM  Islamic Law and the Everyday Life of Muslims. Dr. Paul Martindale
    Redemption in Islam and Christianity. Dr. Paul Martindale.
PM  The New Radicals and Liberals. Interpretations of Islam. Dr. Paul Martindale

**Friday – June 2nd**
AM  How Muslims Come to Christ. Dr. Paul M.
    Christian Approaches to Reaching Muslims. Dr. Paul Martindale.

8. **Required Reading:** (1,341 pages total)
9. Selected Bibliography:


Musk, Bill. 1989 *The Unseen Face of Islam*. MARC & The Evangelical Missionary Alliance, London and Eastbourne, UK.


10. Useful Articles:


Shahid, Samuel. *Rights of Non-Muslims in an Islamic State* (booklet), pp.3-33


Toby, Lester. “*What is the Koran?*” The Atlantic Monthly (Jan 1999):43-56
