

Syllabus

Course Description and Purpose

The purpose of this course is to provide an introductory study of the structure of beliefs and practices of Islam. Special emphasis will be placed on a study of the theology of the Qur'an. The student will read and study the entire Qur'an along with important selections from the Hadith, Shari'a material, and Sufi writings. The actual historical manifestations of contemporary Islam will be explored including African Islam and the rise of modern Islamic fundamentalism which will be examined in the light of 9/11. Throughout the course there will be a concern to demonstrate how Islamic thought is different from Christian thought and how the gospel can be most effectively communicated to members of the Islamic faith, the second largest and fastest growing religion in the world today.

Course Requirements

Students are required to complete the assigned reading from the required texts. In addition, students must prepare a twelve page research paper, and an apologetic response. Students are also required to take a final exam, covering the lectures and required reading. See "Frequently Asked Questions" on page xi for information on scheduling your exam.

I. Research Paper

Students are to submit a research paper on a topic of their choosing. It must meet the following standards to be acceptable:

1. You must submit original research which has not been submitted for any other course work.
2. It must be on a subject matter related to the course material
3. The paper must be a minimum of **twelve** typed pages (double space, 12pt. type) long, following acceptable standards of form and style. A cover sheet is provided by the professor which outlines the specific criteria by which the paper will be graded (see appendix A2-4, A2-5). You should not turn in your paper until you have checked each of the six areas with confidence.
4. Your paper must be prefaced with a synopsis of your entire paper which CANNOT exceed 100 words as well as a detailed outline of the entire paper. Failure to do this will result in an automatic 5% deduction from the final grade.
5. The paper must be turned in to the Semlink office by the course due date. ("Turned in" means the paper includes a cover sheet, outline, synopsis, the body of the paper, and bibliography. Any missing part constitutes NOT being "turned in.")

II. Apologetic Response

Each student must choose ONE of the following assignment options:

1. Interview a Muslim and discuss your faith in Jesus Christ.
 - What are the major objections which the Muslim has to Christianity or to the Christian faith?
 - What confusions about the Christian gospel did you detect in the conversation?
 - Submit a report (approx. 2 pages) of your interview which answers the two questions.
2. Spend at least five hours witnessing to Muslims and write a report (approx. 2 pages) of your experience.
3. Choose five key challenges which Islam poses against the Christian faith and write up a cogent, theologically informed, apologetic response (at least 15 pages) to each of the five challenges. For example, a key challenge could be an issue like the so-called "corruption Bible" or the challenge that Christians are not monotheists, etc.

III. Final Exam

The final exam will cover the lectures and reading in this course. You should be prepared to define terms from the lecture handouts, answer several short-answer questions. The final exam will also include a longer essay which integrates many of the themes and topics covered over the entire length of the course. The final exam may also include matching and/or multiple choice questions, but will focus on your ability to articulate answers to various questions posed from the lectures and materials which have been assigned for reading.

IV. Reading

Semlink students are asked to report their reading on the reading report provided on p. iii. Students are to report their reading as a single figure indicating the percentage of the assigned reading that was completed (e.g. 50% if you read half of the assigned materials, 100% if you read everything). The reading report is to be turned in to the Semlink office by the course due date. See the course outline on page ix for a suggested reading schedule.

Required Reading

- Adeney, Miriam. *Daughters of Islam: Building Bridges with Muslim Women*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2002.
- Farah, Caesar. *Islam*. Hauppauge: Barron's Press, 2004.
- Fakhry, Majid, trans. *An Interpretation of the Qur'an*. New York: NY University Press, 2002.
- Tennent, Timothy. *Christianity at the Religious Roundtable: Evangelicalism in Conversation*

with Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2002.

- Selected articles from Dr. Tennent (see appendix, pp A-1—A-38)
 - ✘ Powell, Bill. “The Struggle for the Soul of Islam.” *TIME Magazine*. (13 September 2004): 53-64. This article is available at <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,995071,00.html>.
 - ✘ Jones, Richard J. “Wilfred Cantwell Smith and Kenneth Cragg on Islam as a Way of Salvation.” *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*. 16, no.4 (July 1992): 105-11.
 - ✘ Cragg, Kenneth. “Prepositions and Salvation.” *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*. 17, no.1 (January 1993): 2-3.
 - ✘ Lester, Toby. “What is the Koran?” *The Atlantic Monthly*. (January 1999): 43-56.
 - ✘ Tennent, Timothy C. “Followers of Jesus (*Isa*) in Islamic Mosques: A Closer Examination of C-5 ‘High Spectrum’ Contextualization.”
- **ONE of the following:**
 - ✘ Haddad, Yvonne and Haddad, Wadi, eds. *Christian-Muslim Encounters*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1995.
 - ✘ Hodgson, Marshall. *The Venture of Islam*, vol. 1: The Classical Age of Islam. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1974.
 - ✘ Haley, Alex. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1990.

Recommended Reading

- Peters, F.E. *A Reader on Classic Islam*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994
- Williams, Alden J. *The Word of Islam*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1984.

V. Interaction

Purpose

- The interaction requirement enhances distance learning by encouraging and providing a context for students to meet and interact with other students taking similar courses and with their course instructors as they work through their Semlink materials. Only Semlink students taking a course for credit are required to complete the interactive component of the course. Non-credit students who are taking Semlink classes for personal enrichment are encouraged to contact the Semlink office (see the contact information section below) if they want to participate in these discussions.
- As a member of the Association of Theological Schools, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary recognizes the value of interactivity in distance learning and complies with the standards for accreditation set by ATS which include interactivity as a compulsory component of any distance learning program that wishes to continue granting credit for its courses.

- It is highly recommended that you spread out your completion of the interactivity requirements outlined below over the six months you have to complete the course, rather than attempting to complete them all at once or very near your due date. By spreading out your completion of the requirements, you will be able to benefit fully from your interaction with other students and receive feedback from the course teaching fellow.

Requirements

The interaction requirement for Semlink courses is to be fulfilled in two ways:

1. **An online discussion forum:** converse with other students and with instructors.
 - Integration questions will be posted by the team of Semlink teaching fellows. These questions are designed to encourage you to analyze, synthesize, and apply what you are learning in your course in a cross-curricular environment. You will be interacting with other students who are taking this course and related courses.
 - Discussions may be based on current events, culture, literature, case studies, and Scripture.
 - You are required to participate four (4) times in the discussions relating to your area of study. Since you are taking *Introduction to islam*, you are required to participate in the applied ministry integration discussions four times during the six months you have to complete the course.
 - You may also submit an integration question for your course to your Semlink teaching fellow (see contact information section below). If your question is selected for use, it may fulfill one of your four required interactions in the discussion forums.
 - To ensure successful completion of this requirement, please complete your participation in the discussion forums at least one week prior to your course due date. This will allow sufficient time for you to resubmit any responses if necessary.
 - Please note that there are many ongoing discussions on the Semlink website. While you are welcome to participate in any of these discussions, only participation in the discussions listed for your course will be given course credit.
2. **Email-based conversation** with a Semlink teaching fellow.
 - Together with the lecturing professor and/or mentoring professor, the Semlink teaching fellows have written a conversation starter, designed to tie together some of the overarching themes raised in the course.
 - The conversation starter will be posted on the Semlink website. You will go to the Semlink website, navigate to your course homepage (see below), and submit your first response to the question via email. The submission will be read and responded to by your Semlink teaching fellow, who will take the conversation

further based on your original thoughts and comments.

- You are required to email a total of three (3) times, including your original response to the conversation starter.
- Please allow a minimum of one month to complete this conversation to allow time for the teaching fellow to respond. Allow five business days for a response to each of your submissions.

To find the website and specific interactivity details for your course:

1. Log on to the Semlink website (www.gordonconwell.edu/ockenga/semlink) and enter the section for current students.
2. Select your course from the menu, and go to the homepage for your course. This page contains links to the specific interactivity requirements for your course and to other Semlink resources.
3. If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the Semlink office (see the contact information section below) and alternative arrangements will be made.

Please Note: In the case of any differences between the specific interactivity requirements given for this course on the website and the information given in this workbook, the website takes precedence.

Evaluation of Submissions

- You will not be assigned a letter grade for your participation in Semlink interactivity, but completion of your interactivity requirements is required to receive credit for your course. **If you fail to complete the interactivity requirements, you will fail your course.**
- Your submissions will be evaluated as complete or incomplete based on quality of thought and clarity of expression (see the general guidelines described below and the specific guidelines found on your course homepage on the Semlink website).
- In the event of an unacceptable response, you will be informed and given the opportunity to expand or resubmit your thoughts, provided that your final submissions are made before the course due date. Submissions made after the course due date will be subject to penalty.

General Guidelines for Submissions

- Proper grammar and punctuation are required (no web-speak).
- Your response should demonstrate original thought and interaction with the issues being addressed, including a coherent flow of thought or argument. Please answer the questions fully and specifically.

If this requirement is not completed by the date on which your final assignment for the course is submitted to our office, the final assignment will be held and will not be submitted to the professor for grading until the interactivity requirement is complete. Therefore, there will be no final grade given for the course until the interactivity requirement is fulfilled. Once this requirement is completed, the professor will receive and grade the final assignment and you will be given a final grade for the course. If you have not completed all interactivity requirements within ONE MONTH after the end date of the course, you will automatically fail the course with no exceptions.

VI. Workbook

As you listen to the lectures, you can answer the questions in the accompanying workbook. The workbook is provided as a resource for your study. The questions have been designed to help you to learn and process the information in this course. The completed workbook will also serve as an outline of the course for your future reference. You may find it helpful to stop the tape of the lecture at various times to consider the questions and answer them more fully. This is highly encouraged. You may also wish to take additional notes in the margins of the workbook or in the other spaces provided. You are not required to turn in your workbook.

Grading

Your final grade for the course will be computed on the following basis:

Reading of textbooks:	20%
Research paper:	30%
Apologetic response:	20%
Final exam:	30%

The grading scale is as follows:

A+	97-100	B	83-87	C-	70-72
A	93-96	B-	80-82	D	65-69
A-	90-92	C+	78-79	F	0-64
B+	88-89	C	73-77		

Course Outline

Lecture	Topic	Suggested Reading
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Islam • Islam in the Context of the 21st Century 	Farah, <i>Islam</i> ch. 1 Adeney, <i>Daughters of Islam</i> preface-ch. 1 Tennent, <i>Christianity at the Religious Roundtable</i> ch. 1
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Islamic Arabia • Muhammad the Prophet and the Rise of Islam 	Farah, <i>Islam</i> ch. 2, 3 Adeney, <i>Daughters of Islam</i> ch. 2 Tennent, <i>Christianity at the Religious Roundtable</i> ch. 6
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Islamic Arabia (continued) • Qur'an: The Foundation of the Islamic World View 	Farah, <i>Islam</i> ch. 4, 5 Adeney, <i>Daughters of Islam</i> ch. 3 Tennent, <i>Christianity at the Religious Roundtable</i> ch. 7
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qur'an: The Foundations of the Islamic World View (continued) 	Farah, <i>Islam</i> ch. 6 Adeney, <i>Daughters of Islam</i> ch. 4 Tennent, <i>Christianity at the Religious Roundtable</i> ch. 2
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Da'wah vs. Jihad in Islamic Thought • Historical Development of Islam after Muhammad 	Farah, <i>Islam</i> ch. 7, 8 Adeney, <i>Daughters of Islam</i> ch. 5 Tennent, <i>Christianity at the Religious Roundtable</i> ch. 3
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Role of Tradition in Islam • Sharia, Fatwa, and Qiya 	Farah, <i>Islam</i> ch. 9 Adeney, <i>Daughters of Islam</i> ch. 6 Tennent, <i>Christianity at the Religious Roundtable</i> ch. 4
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharia, Fatwa, and Qiya (continued) • Schools of Law in Sunni and Shia Tradition • Mystical Islam, Sufi Brotherhoods and Fold Islam • Case Study: The Practice of Islam in African Context 	Farah, <i>Islam</i> ch. 10-13 Adeney, <i>Daughters of Islam</i> ch. 7 Tennent, <i>Christianity at the Religious Roundtable</i> ch. 5

Lecture	Topic	Suggested Reading
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Study: The practice of Islam in African Context (continued) • Theological Issues in the Qur'an: Jesus Christ in the Qur'an 	Farah, <i>Islam</i> ch. 14 Adeney, <i>Daughters of Islam</i> ch. 8 Tennent, <i>Christianity at the Religious Roundtable</i> ch. 8
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Studies in Islamic Church Planting 	Farah, <i>Islam</i> ch. 15 Adeney, <i>Daughters of Islam</i> ch. 9 Tennent, <i>Christianity at the Religious Roundtable</i> ch. 9
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Studies in Islamic Church Planting (continued) • Islamic Fundamentalism • Islam as a Religion of Peace 	Farah, <i>Islam</i> ch. 16 Adeney, <i>Daughters of Islam</i> ch. 10-11 Tennent, <i>Christianity at the Religious Roundtable</i> ch. 10

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I arrange to take my exam?

1. Contact the Semlink office via email (semlink.office@gcts.edu) or phone (978-646-4144 or 1-877-736-5465, toll free). Please allow at least 48 hours to process your exam request as well as additional time for mailing to destination.
2. If you are a student at the Hamilton campus, your exam will be sent to Goddard Library.
3. If you are a student at CUME, Charlotte, or off-campus, you will need to find a proctor and provide proctor contact information when requesting your exam.
 - a. Your proctor should be a church official, an education official, or a librarian. Your proctor cannot be a GCTS student or a family member.
 - b. Your exam will be sent directly to your proctor, so you must provide a mailing or email address for him or her.
 - c. Your proctor will be responsible for mailing your exam to the Semlink address provided in the contact information section. **Please provide your proctor with an envelope with prepaid postage for this purpose. The proctor must mail the exam so that it is postmarked by the course due date in order to avoid late penalty. Any work postmarked after the due date will be considered late.**

How do I send in written work?

1. All course work is due by the course due date.
2. Course materials should be sent to the Semlink office address provided in the contact information section.
3. Any course work that is mailed to the Semlink office must be postmarked by your due date to avoid penalty.
4. Please include the address to which you would like your work sent. For Hamilton students, please use your campus box number.

How do I request an extension?

1. For Hamilton, Charlotte, or CUME students, extensions should be requested through your home campus's registration office.
2. For off-campus students, extensions should be requested through the Semlink office.
3. Extension requests must be made in writing and must be submitted on or before the due date of your course. Your extension request should include the unavoidable/avoidable circumstances that have prevented you from completing your course and the amount of time lost due to those circumstances. You should also state what work you have completed and what is still unfinished. Please state for which course work you are seeking an extension.
4. Off-campus students who have not matriculated onto a campus should submit extension requests with a \$25 processing fee per course.
5. Generally, extension requests based on avoidable circumstances are granted with a grade penalty.
6. Extensions cannot be granted after the due date.
7. You cannot withdraw from a course after receiving an extension.

How do I withdraw from a course?

1. You can withdraw from your course up to the due date.
2. For Hamilton, Charlotte, and CUME students, requests to withdraw must be in writing and are to be submitted to your home campus registration office.
3. For off-campus students, requests to withdraw must be in writing and are to be submitted to the Semlink office.
4. Should you withdraw from the course, the tuition refund policy is as follows:
 - a. 100% up to 15 days, 50% up to 30 days, no refund after 30 days.
 - b. Material cost is non-refundable.
 - c. Courses dropped prior to the 15-day deadline will not appear on your transcript. A "W" (withdrawn) will appear on transcripts for courses dropped after 15 days.

What is the penalty for late work?

All course work submitted to the Semlink office after the due date will be assessed a grade penalty. On-campus students should contact their home campus's registration office for more information on the specific grade penalty that will be applied. Off-campus students should contact the Semlink office.

When is my course due?

1. Your course due date can be found on the confirmation sheet sent to you separately. We highly recommend that you make this sheet a part of your course materials.
2. Your course is due six months after your start date which is based on the date you registered for the course allowing time for preparation of the course materials by the Semlink office and shipping the materials to you.
3. Graduating seniors should note that during their final semester the due date for Semlink courses will be the due date for course work for seniors.

Contact Information

At Semlink, there are a number of different offices working together as a team in order to care for you as a student. Please read the following descriptions and contact the appropriate office when questions arise.

For Questions About:

Course materials
Administrative issues
Exam requirements
Registration information
Extensions
Due dates

Contact:**The Semlink Office**

The Semlink office handles your registration, course materials, and exams. They also handle extensions and other administrative issues. If you are unsure whom to call, the Semlink office will be able to direct you.

Phone: 978-646-4144 or 1-877-736-5465 (toll free)

Fax: 978-646-4565

Email: semlink.office@gcts.edu

Address: Semlink Office

130 Essex Street

S. Hamilton, MA 01982

Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p. m. Monday-Friday

For Questions About:

Ordering textbooks

Contact:**The Gordon-Conwell BookCentre**

The BookCentre stocks the required textbooks for every course.

Phone: 1-888-252-4287 (toll free) or 978-646-4015

Email: books@gcts.edu

Website: www.gordonconwell.edu/bookcentre

For Questions About:

Interactivity requirements

Contact:**The Semlink Teaching Fellows**

The Semlink teaching fellows have been selected for demonstrated proficiency in a particular subject area. The teaching fellows work closely with the mentoring professor to help you to interact at a deeper level with the course content and to provide you with opportunities to interact with other students and instructors in an area related to this course.

Email: semlink.applied@gcts.edu

Website: www.gordonconwell.edu/ockenga/semlink

For Questions About:

Course content

Suggested supplemental reading

Contact:**The Mentoring Professor**

The mentoring professor grades your course work, sets the course syllabus, and can answer questions about the course content. Please contact the mentoring professor only with the types of questions above.

Name: Dr. Paul Martindale

Email: pmartindale@gcts.edu

Phone: 978-646-4101 (September through May) or
781-334-4072 (June through August)

Address: Dr. Paul Martindale

130 Essex Street

S. Hamilton, MA 01982