Syllabus: AP/WM 647

Semlink
at Gordon-Conwell
Theological Seminary

AP/WM 647: Introduction to Islam with Dr. Tim Tennent (course mentor Dr. Paul Martindale)

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Snapshot of Course Requirements
AP/WM 647 requires timely completion of the following six course requirements:

1. Research Paper (30% of your grade)
2. Apologetic Response (20% of your grade)
3. Examinations (30% of your grade)
4. Required Reading (20% of your grade)
5. Interactivity (required for course grade to be submitted to registration office)
6. Course Checkout/Reading Report (after you have finished all course requirements above, see Interactivity Module)

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

I. Research Paper (see also the additional information below, including the "Research Paper Checklist")

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 coursework.
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 (see below) which outlines the specific criteria by which the paper will be graded. 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...
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

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). Your reading report must be turned in to the Semlink office as part of your course checkout. See below for a suggested reading schedule.

Required Reading

- Selected articles from Dr. Tennent
  - Tennent, Timothy C. “Followers of Jesus (Isa) in Islamic Mosques: A Closer Examination of C-5 ‘High Spectrum’ Contextualization.”

- ONE of the following:

Recommended Reading

Submitting Assignments

Assignments for your Semlink course(s) can be submitted electronically through the Drop Box tool in Sakai. On the left menu, under "Project Tools," select "Drop Box." You will click "Add" then "Upload Files." Some helpful information about this process:

- Paper submissions should be in either .doc, .docx or .pdf format.
- Submitting your work through drop box is considered a formal (and final) submission. Nothing further will be needed on your part.
- All submissions are time/date stamped and will be retrieved by the Semlink office and routed to your professor for grading.
- Assignments may be returned to you electronically, in most cases through your Sakai drop box or via email. If your assignment was graded by hand, it will be scanned and delivered to you as a PDF file.

Please let the Semlink office know if you have any further questions about electronic submission. semlink@gordonconwell.edu or 978-646-4144.

Taking an Exam

There are two ways you may take an exam for this course:

1. **Electronically** (preferred method): To take an exam electronically, click "Tests & Quizzes" on the left menu (under Project Tools).
   - Select the exam you plan to take. You must provide proctor information (including your proctor's email address) to the Semlink office prior to taking your exam. You cannot login to and/or take an exam without a proctor present.
   - Before taking your exam, your proctor will review important information with you and will then log you into the exam when you are ready to begin. Your proctor must remain present throughout the duration of the exam. You may use your own computer (e.g. a laptop) or a computer provided by your proctor.
   - Ensure you have a reliable internet connection.

2. **Paper-based Exam**: To take your exam by paper, click "Tests & Quizzes" on the left menu (under Project Tools). Select the exam you plan to take (it will include "paper exam" in the title).
   - The exam will be available in PDF format. You will need to provide proctor information in order to access your exam (including your proctor's email address).
   - Your proctor will need to print your exam.
   - When you have completed your exam, your proctor may either 1) scan and upload your exam to Sakai, 2) email a scanned copy to the Semlink office; 3) mail to the address provided.

If you plan to take an exam in one of the **GCTS libraries**, you do not need to request your exam through the Semlink office. You may take the exam any time provided the library is open and able to accommodate your request. Library computers can be used to take the exam, but are limited and not always available at all times of day. Use of your own laptop computer is highly recommend. Check with the library also for special summer and holiday hours, or other changes to their schedule that may affect your ability to take your exam. Boston/CUME, Charlotte, and Jacksonville students may need to contact the library to set up a time to take an exam.

Interactivity
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. The purpose of Semlink interactivity is to enhance learning by providing an online environment for students to engage meaningfully and substantively with professors, teaching fellows, and other students in order to achieve an enriching and academically challenging distance learning experience.

There are two interactivity requirements for this course:

1. **An online discussion forum**: converse with other students and with instructors on the Semlink forum. You are required to participate four (4) times in the discussions relating to your area of study. 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.

2. **Email-based conversation** with your Semlink teaching fellow. 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 begin your interactivity (and for more details about this requirement), see the Interactivity section under Modules. This section will explain in more detail what is expected for this requirement.

**If you fail to complete the interactivity requirements, you will fail your course.**

**Grading**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading of textbooks</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apologetic response</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interaction</td>
<td>Completion Required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The grading scale is as follows: A+ 97-100; A 93-96; A- 90-92; B+ 88-89; B 83-87; B- 80-82; C+ 78-79; C 73-77; C- 70-72; D 65-69; F 0-64

**Course Outline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Suggested Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to Islam</td>
<td>Farah, Islam ch. 1 Adeney, Daughters of Islam preface-ch. 1 Tennent, Christianity at the Religious Roundtable ch. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Islam in the Context of the 21st Century</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pre-Islamic Arabia</td>
<td>Farah, Islam ch. 2, 3 Adeney, Daughters of Islam ch. 2 Tennent, Christianity at the Religious Roundtable ch. 6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Muhammad the Prophet and the Rise of Islam</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pre-Islamic Arabia (continued)</td>
<td>Farah, Islam ch. 4, 5 Adeney, Daughters of Islam ch. 3 Tennent, Christianity at the Religious Roundtable ch. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Qur’an: The Foundation of the Islamic World View</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>References</td>
</tr>
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<td>---------</td>
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</tbody>
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| 4       | Qur'an: The Foundations of the Islamic World View (continued)         | Farah, Islam ch. 6  
          |                                                                    | Adeney, Daughters of Islam ch. 4  
          |                                                                    | Tennent, Christianity at the Religious Roundtable ch. 2 |
| 5       | Da'wah vs. Jihad in Islamic Thought  
          | Historical Development of Islam after Muhammad                     | Farah, Islam ch. 9  
          |                                                                    | Adeney, Daughters of Islam ch. 6  
          |                                                                    | Tennent, Christianity at the Religious Roundtable ch. 4 |
| 6       | The Role of Tradition in Islam  
          | Sharia, Fatwa, and Qiya                                           | Farah, Islam ch. 9  
          |                                                                    | Adeney, Daughters of Islam ch. 6  
          |                                                                    | Tennent, Christianity at the Religious Roundtable ch. 4 |
| 7       | 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, Islam ch. 10-13  
          |                                                                    | Adeney, Daughters of Islam ch. 7  
          |                                                                    | Tennent, Christianity at the Religious Roundtable ch. 5 |
| 8       | Case Study: The practice of Islam in African Context (continued)    | Farah, Islam ch. 15  
          |                                                                    | Adeney, Daughters of Islam ch. 9  
          |                                                                    | Tennent, Christianity at the Religious Roundtable ch. 9 |
| 9       | Case Studies in Islamic Church Planting                             | Farah, Islam ch. 15  
          |                                                                    | Adeney, Daughters of Islam ch. 9  
          |                                                                    | Tennent, Christianity at the Religious Roundtable ch. 9 |
| 10      | Case Studies in Islamic Church Planting (continued)  
          | Islamic Fundamentalism  
          | Islam as a Religion of Peace                                       | Farah, Islam ch. 16  
          |                                                                    | Adeney, Daughters of Islam ch. 10-11  
          |                                                                    | Tennent, Christianity at the Religious Roundtable ch. 10 |

**Research Paper Checklist**

The file below (available as a downloadable Word document), if followed carefully, is designed to assist you in presenting an acceptable research paper. The professor will evaluate your paper based on the ten-point list of criteria found on the lower portion of this document. This document must be included (with the upper section completed by you) with your paper, copied and pasted in completion to the first page of your paper when you submit it.
If the student fails to meet any of the checklist requirements, there is an automatic one grade level reduction per area. Furthermore, each research paper must include an outline and a synopsis.

Research Paper Checklist for APWM647 (required to turn in with your paper)