The Theology of Islam and its Implications for Ministry to Muslims

WM 725

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Summer 2015
Professor of Record: Dr. Paul T. Martindale
Other Course Instructors: Dr. John Leonard, 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 June 19th through June 27th. 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. Gordon-Conwell students will also attend an orientation class on Monday morning June 16th. Those attending this program from outside the seminary will arrive on Thursday afternoon June 19th. This course is also known as THE SUMMER INSTITUTE ON ISLAM. Prefield missionaries from various mission organizations and engaged laypersons will be joining us for this program.

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 5 to 7 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 8 to 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
   Reading of assigned texts and articles 25%
   Mosque Visit Reflection Paper 15%
   Research 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. 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. Evening video & discussion session 6:30 - 8:30 PM on Friday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.
Monday – June 15th  
For Gordon-Conwell Students Only
AM  Orientation to the course for Gordon-Conwell Students. Dr. Paul Martindale

Thursday–June 18th  
For Outside Participants in the Course Only
6:30 PM Orientation to the course methods, goals, and materials.

Friday – June 19th
AM  Orientation for Mosque visit. Dr. Paul Martindale.
Islam as Ideology and Muslims as People. Views of 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 – June 20th
AM  Islamic Doctrines of God and Man. Dr. Paul Martindale.
Muslim Ideology, Jihad, and Contemporary Movements in Islam. Dr. Paul Martindale.
PM  Enjoy Boston and Cape Ann!

Sunday – June 21st
No classes scheduled. Day off for worship, relaxing, and sight-seeing

Monday – June 22nd
AM  Islamic Doctrine of Prophets and Scriptures. Dr. Paul Martindale.
Islamic Law and the Everyday Life of Muslims. Dr. Paul Martindale
PM  Redemption in Islam and Christianity. Dr. Paul Martindale.

Tuesday – June 23rd
AM  Responding to Muslim Objections: Son of God & Trinity. Dr. Paul Martindale.
Christian Approaches to Reaching Muslims. Dr. Paul Martindale.
PM  Reaching Muslim Immigrants with the gospel. Dr. John Leonard

Wednesday – June 24th
AM  The Role of the Missionary in Church Planting. Dr. John Leonard
Folk Islam. Ministry to Animistic Muslims. Dr. John Leonard
PM  Making Sense of Contextualization in Ministry to Muslims. Dr. John Leonard

Thursday – June 25th
AM  Coming to Christ from Wahabbi Islam. Rev. Elijah Moumen
The Role of Women in Islam. Dr. Paul Martindale
PM  Answering Muslim Objections: Corruption & Abrogation. Rev. Elijah Moumen

Friday – June 26th
AM  Muslim Objections: Crucifixion, Atonement, & Prophecies of Mohammed. Rev. Elijah Moumen
How Muslims Come to Christ. Results of a survey from converts from Islam. Dr. Paul M.

8. Required Textbooks:
The Quran. Choose one of the following translations of the Quran and read assigned sections of it in chronological order following the Quran Reading Sheet that the professor will give you. This will help you to see the historical
development of the themes in the text. The three most readable and most accurate translations of the Quran are:


or


Christine Schirrmacher. 2008. The Islamic View of Major Christian Teachings, RVB International, Hamburg, Germany. ISBN 978-3-938116-62-3, Pages 7-135. (This one will be provided to you by the professor on the first day of the course)

9. Selected Bibliography:


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


10. Useful Articles (Articles will be included on a DVD provided to you by professor):


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


