

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Northwest College Branch Campus
Kirkland, Washington
January 31 – February 4, 2005

MCSE 631 INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM
(2 Credits)

Paul Parks, D. Min.

Spring 2005

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will serve as an overview of Islam, including its historical background, development, spread, and why it has such worldwide appeal. We will examine thoroughly the main beliefs and practices of Muslims, making comparisons with those of Christians. Special attention will be given to develop practical guidelines for an effective approach and witness to Muslims. Emphasis is placed on intercessory prayer and the role of the Holy Spirit in the process of conversion and discipleship.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Understand the historical development and the expansion of Islam, its power and appeal to the masses.
2. Describe the major beliefs and practices of Muslims, noting the differences in orthodox, secular, mystic and folk Islam.
3. Grasp the powerful system within which the Muslim is bound, and ascertain how this context affects the conversion, discipleship and church planting process.
4. Learn appropriate practical guidelines for Christian approach and witness to Muslims.
5. Understand the vital role of the Holy Spirit in the process of conversion, discipleship, and church planting.
6. Develop a philosophy of ministry and approach to Muslims.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Gilchrist, John. *Sharing the Gospel with Muslims*. Capetown: Life Challenge Africa, 2003 (160 pages). ***Order from professor.***

McCurry, Don. *Healing the Broken Family of Abraham: New Life for Muslims*. Colorado Springs: Ministries to Muslims, 2001 (383 pages). **Order from professor.**

Parshall, Phil & Julie. *Lifting the Veil: The World of Muslim Women*. Waynesboro, GA: Gabriel Publishing, 2002 (288 pages).

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Introduction and overview—the challenge of Islam
- II. Historical background—Muhammad’s “revelations”
- III. Four Keys to Understanding Islam
 - A. History and Secrets to Spread of Islam
 - B. Duties and Beliefs
 - C. Changes in Islam Today
 - D. Folk Islam
- IV. What Muslims Think about Christianity
- V. Muslims and the Bible
- VI. Muslims and the Trinity
- VII. Muslims and the Cross
- VIII. Understanding Conversion

METHODOLOGY

A combination of lecture and discussion will be utilized.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Pre-Session

1. Do all the required reading listed above.
2. Write two, three-page critiques of the books by Parshall and Gilchrist in which you evaluate the usefulness of these books for ministry and compare and contrast them. These papers are due the first day of class.

B. During the Session

1. Punctual attendance at all class sessions is expected. Class participation is vital and students should show respect and support for others in the class.
2. The final exam will be given the last day of class.

C. Post-Session

1. Write a 15 page paper on some area of Islam that would be of special interest or of practical help to the student sometime in the future. Please check your topic with the professor before writing. This paper should be forwarded to the professor for grading and postmarked no later than May 4, 2005. Please send paper to:

Paul Parks
c/o CMM
2034 E. Kearney, Ste. 205
Springfield, MO 65803
(417) 866-3313

Or by e-mail to: pauldparks@earthlink.net

2. Including the textbooks, the student is required to read at least **1000 pages** for the course. A reading report noting the books and number of pages read must be submitted with the final research project. This assignment will be calculated into the reading portion of the total grade.

GRADING PROCEDURE

2 Written assignments	10%
Research paper	30%
Reading	30%
Final exam	30%

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Abdul-Haqq. *Sharing Your Faith with a Muslim*. Minneapolis: Bethany, 1980.
- Braswell, Jr. George. *Islam*. Nashville: Broadman, 1996.
- Geisler, Norman L. & Abdul Saleeb. *Answering Islam*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.
- Gilchrist, John. *Facing the Muslim Challenge*. Cape Town: Life Challenge Africa, 2002
- _____. *The Christian Witness to the Muslims*. Benoni, South Africa: Jesus to the Muslims, 1986
- Greenway, Roger. *Islam and the Cross*. Phillipsburg, N J: P&R, 2002.
- Kateregga, Badru & David Shenk. *Islam & Christianity*. Nairobi, Kenya: Uzima, 1980.
- Livingstone, Greg. *Planting Churches in Muslim Cities*. Grand Rapids; Baker, 1993.
- Malek, Sobhi. *Islam: Introduction and Approach*. Irving, TX: ICI, 1992.
- McCurry, Don. *Healing the Broken Family of Abraham*. Colorado Springs: Ministries

to Muslims, 2001.

_____. *Responding to Muslims*. Springfield, MO: CMM, 1994.

Musk, Bill. *The Unseen Face of Islam*. Eastbourne, U.K.: MARC, 1989.

Parrinder, Geoffrey. *Jesus in the Qur'an*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1977.

Pfanfer, C. G. *The Balance of Truth*. London: Religious Tract Society, 1910.

Parshall, Phil. *Inside the Community*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.

Parshall, Phil & Julie. *Lifting the Veil*. Waynesboro, GA: Gabriel, 2002.

Saal, William. *Reaching Muslims for Christ*. Chicago: Moody, 1991.

Woodberry, J. Dudley, ed. *Muslims & Christians on the Emmaus Road*. Monrovia, CA: MARC, 1989.

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus revised by Dr. Paul Parks August 12, 2004.