

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Continuing Education
Springfield, Missouri
July 22-26, 2002

MCSE 631 INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM

Harry Morin

Summer 2002

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide an overview of Islam from its early inception to the present time, with a broad treatment of the diversity of beliefs and practices within the Muslim world community in order to help the Christian worker recognize both difficulties and possibilities for evangelism.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Trace the historical development of the early Muslim community and understand its influence upon contemporary Islam
2. Describe the belief system of Islam and recognize its hidden elements of mysticism and folk religion
3. Identify present trends within the Islamic community worldwide and understand their impact on Christian witness

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Rahman, Fazlur. *Islam*. Chicago: University of Chicago, second edition, 1979.

Ali, Abdullah Yusuf. *The Meaning of the Holy Qur'an*. Beltsville, MD: Amana Publishers, ninth edition, 1997.

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RECOMMENDED READING

Braswell, George W. Jr. *Islam: Its Prophet, Peoples, Politics, and Power*.

Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1996.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. In the beginning—*Al Hijra*
2. The Articles and the Pillars
3. The Islamic Point of View
4. Muslim Objections to Christians
5. Christian Responses to Muslims
6. The Sufi and the Beloved
7. The Race of the Jinn
8. Sharing the Gospel with a Monotheist at the Well
9. Growing Tensions and Growing Opportunities

METHODOLOGY

Lecture, discussion, practicum sessions, and writing assignments

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Pre-Session

1. Read the text, *Islam*, by Fazlur Rahman in its entirety and write a two-page critique that summarizes the material and expresses your evaluation.
2. Read the first nineteen chapters of the Qur'an by Yusuf Ali and write a three-page review, noting predominant theological themes and expressing your impressions, both positive and negative.

DUE DATE: Monday, July 22, 2002

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B. Session

1. Punctual attendance at all sessions is expected.
2. A one-page typewritten summary for each of three of the afternoon practicum sessions.

C. Post-Session

Write a 15-20 page typewritten paper on a topic dealing with some historical aspect of Islam, which is relevant for today with regard to Muslim-Christian relations. The bibliography should include Muslim authors. The topic for the paper must be approved by the instructor.

This paper should be forwarded to the professor for grading and postmarked no later than October 22, 2002. Sent to:

**Harry Morin
c/o CMM
2032 E. Kearney, Suite 205
Springfield, MO 65803**

NOTE: Work received after the post-session due date specified in the syllabus will result in a change of grade fee (\$15.00) being charged, even when an extension has been granted by the instructor.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Pre-Session reading reviews	35%
Practicum summary reports	15%
Post-session paper	50%

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abdul Haqq, Abdiyah Akbar. *Sharing Your Faith with a Muslim*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 1980.

Ali, A. Yusuf. *The Holy Qur'an*. Indianapolis: American Trust Publications, 1977.

Bravmann, M.M. *The Spiritual Background of Early Islam: Studies in Ancient Era Concept*. Leiden, Netherlands: E.J. Brill, 1972.

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- Bucaille, Maurice. *The Bible, the Qur'an, and Science*. Indianapolis: American Trust Publications, 1978.
- Campbell, William. *The Qur'an and the Bible in the Light of History and Science*. Upper Darby, PA: Arab World Ministry, n.d.
- Chacour, Elias. *Blood Brothers*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1984.
- Cooper, Anne. *Ishmael My Brother: A Christian Introduction to Islam*. Crowborough, England: MARC, second edition, 1997.
- Esposito, John L. *The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality*. New York: Oxford University Press, second edition, 1995.
- Fernea, Elizabeth, W., ed. *Women and the Family in the Middle East: New Voices of Change*. Texas: University of Texas Press, 1985.
- Gibb, H.A.R. and J.H. Kramers, eds. *Shorter Encyclopaedia of Islam*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1973.
- Gilchrist, John. *Muhammad and the Religion of Islam*. Benoni, Republic of South Africa: Jesus to the Muslims, 1988.
- _____. *The Christian Witness to the Muslims*. Benoni, Republic of South Africa: Jesus to the Muslims, 1986.
- Haykal, M.H., trans. By A. Wessels. *Life of Muhammad*. Indianapolis: North American Trust Publications, 1976.
- Hitti, Philip K. *The Arabs: A Short History*. Washington, DC: Regnery Gateway, second edition, 1970.
- Love, Fran and Jaleta Eckheart, eds. *Ministry to Muslim Women: Longing to Call Them Sisters*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2000.
- Love, Rick. *Muslims, Magic, and the Kingdom of God: Church Planting Among Folk Muslims*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2000.
- Malek, Sobhi. *Islam: Introduction and Approach*. Irving, TX: International Correspondence Institute, 1992.
- Mallouhi, Christine. *Mini-skirts, Mothers, and Muslims: Modeling Spiritual Values in Muslim Culture*. Kent, England: Spears Publication, n.d.

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McCurry, Don M. *The Gospel and Islam: A Compendium*. Monrovia, CA: MARC, 1979.

Musk, Bill A. *Passionate Believing: The 'Fundamentalist' Face of Islam*. Tunbridge Wells, England: Monarch Publications, 1992.

_____. *The Unseen Face of Islam: Sharing the Gospel with Ordinary Muslims*. London: MARC, 1990.

Parshall, Phil. *Inside the Community: Understanding Muslims Through their Traditions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1994.

_____. *The Fortress and the Fire: Jesus Christ and the Challenge of Islam*. Bombay: Gospel Literature Service, 1979.

Stacey, Vivienne. *Women in Islam*. London: Interserve, 1995.

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Harry Morin, February 25, 2002