

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Springfield, Missouri
August 30-September 15, 2005
(Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday on EU campus)

MCSM 545 INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM
(3 Credits)

Instructor: Dale Fagerland

Fall 2005

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide an overview of Islam, including its historical background, development, spread, its diversity and why it has such worldwide appeal. We will examine the main beliefs and practices of Muslims, noting similarities and crucial differences with Christianity in order to help Christian workers recognize both difficulties in evangelizing Muslims as well as the great opportunities. Special attention will be given to develop Christ-like attitudes and approaches for effective ministry to Muslims.

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 its appeal to the masses.
2. Describe the major beliefs and practices of Muslims.
3. Grasp the powerful system within which the Muslim is bound, and ascertain how this WorldView affects the conversion and discipleship process.
4. Learn from Scripture and from the instructor's personal experiences appropriate practical guidelines for Christian approach and witness to Muslims.
5. Develop a philosophy of approach for ministry to Muslims.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Braswell, George W. Jr. *Islam: What You Need to Know About Islam & Muslims*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 2000.

CMM. *Through Muslim Eyes*. Springfield, MO: CMM, 1997.

Fagerland, Dale. *Course Workbook*. Springfield, MO: CMM, 2004.

Garlow, James L. *A Christian's Response to Islam*. Tulsa: RiverOak Publishing 2002

Love, Fran and Eckheart, Jelata, Eds. *Ministry to Muslim Women: Longing to Call Them Sisters*. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 2000.

Musk, Bill. *The Unseen Face of Islam*. London & Grand Rapids: Monarch Books, 1989.

Morin, Harry. *Al-Masih: The Anointed One*. Springfield, MO: CMM 1998.

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. The Challenge of Islam—Possible Approaches
- II. Historical Background—Early Developments
- III. What Muslims Should Believe—Articles of Faith
- IV. Mallam the Mediator—Folk Islam
- V. What Muslims Should Practice—Pillars of Islam
- VI. The “Wall of Islam”—Locked Into a System
- VII. Through Muslim Eyes—Islamic Perspective
- VIII. Practical Guidelines—Cultural Do’s and Don’ts

METHODOLOGY

A combination of lecture and discussion will be utilized with the aid of numerous overheads, PowerPoint presentations and other visual aids. Class notes, articles and handouts assembled in workbook form will enhance note-taking and assist the learning process.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Pre-Session

1. Read the required textbooks listed above. Prepare a 4-5 page typewritten analysis of Braswell’s book. Women students may write a report on Love and Eckheart’s book on ministry to Muslim women in place of Braswell’s. This report, which should summarize the material and express your evaluation, is due the beginning of class Thursday, August 30, 2005.

2. Read the other texts listed above and submit Friday morning (9/1) a two-page evaluation of *Al-Masih: The Anointed One*.

A. Session

3. Punctual attendance at all sessions is expected.
4. The instructor's "Muslim Reader" will be given out in class and referenced daily.
5. Mid-term exam: the last hour class Wednesday, September 7, 2005.
6. Final Exam will be given the last hour of class Friday, September 15, 2005.

B. Post-Session

Prepare a 15-18 page research paper (following accepted AGTS standards) in which you identify and describe a segment of Muslim society of particular interest to you. This may deal with Islamic theology, Muslim practices (Folk, mystic, orthodox), the application of contextualized worship forms, or a proposed strategy to reach a particular Muslim people group. The topic, *practical to your ministry*, must be approved by the instructor by September 15, 2005. This project should be submitted in hard copy to the instructor. It may be sent postage-free from AGTS route-mail to CMM or postmarked no later than November 24, 2005.

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(NOTE) Assignments received after the due date specified in the syllabus will result in a change of grade fee (\$15.00) even when an extension has been granted by the instructor.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Attendance and participation.....	10%
Mid-term Exam.....	15%
Book Report.....	15%
Final Exam.....	30%
Research Paper.....	30%

SPECIFIC DATA: Syllabus prepared by Dale Fagerland July 28, 2005.