

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
MHTM/THEM 649 Christian-Muslim Theological Issues
Springfield, Missouri
October 24-28, 2005

Ken Ferguson, D.Min. (Cand).

Fall, 2005

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of the theological challenge of Islam and Christian response. Key theological differences will be studied with special emphasis being placed upon biblical answers. The purpose is to develop understanding of the congruencies and divergencies between Christianity and Islam as a tool for communicating the Gospel to Muslims.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Have an understanding of the historical, cultural and religious background and its impact upon Muhammad and the development of his belief system.
2. Identify the major Islamic objections to the Christian faith and doctrine.
3. Prepare a biblical defense of the major Christian doctrines that Muslims find objectionable.
4. Develop an appreciation for the value of using the Quran in answering Muslims.

TEXTBOOKS

Ali, A. Yusuf. *The Quran: Translation*. Elmhurst, NY: Tahrike Tarsile Qur'an, Inc., 2000.

Abdul-Haqq. *Sharing Your Faith with a Muslim*. Minneapolis: Bethany, 1980.

Geisler, Norman L. & Abdul Saleeb. *Answering Islam*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.

Gilchrist, John. *Facing the Muslim Challenge*. Cape Town: Life Challenge Africa, 2002.

Kateregga, Badru D. & David W. Shenk. *Islam & Christianity*. Nairobi, Kenya: Uzima, 1980.

Morin, Harry. *Responding to Muslims*. Springfield, MO: CMM, 1994.

Chacour, Elias with David Hazard. *Blood Brothers*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Chosen Books, 2003.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction to the course.
2. The basic beliefs of Muslims.
3. The background for their beliefs. Where did Muhammad get his religious ideas from?
4. Do all Muslims believe the same?
5. The Quran and the Hadith.
6. Muslim objections to Christian beliefs.
7. Christian responses to Muslims.
8. Christian eschatology and evangelizing Muslims.

METHODOLOGY

The primary method of instruction will be lecture and discussion. The lectures will include the use of overheads, power point, hand outs, and video. Some short articles will be read and discussed in class in an effort to see how bridges can be built between the two faiths.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Pre-Session

1. Read the first nineteen chapters of the Quran by Yusuf Ali and write a three-page review, expressing your impressions, both positive and negative. Note any passages of theological significance and comment on the similarities and differences between Quranic and Christian teaching.
2. Read the textbooks. Submit a statement reporting on the amount of reading completed.

DUE DATE: Monday, October 24, 2005

B. Session

1. Punctual attendance at all sessions is expected.
2. Type a one-page reflection of the material covered in class for each of the first four days. Each paper is due at the beginning of class the next day.

C. Post-Session

Write a 15-20 page typewritten paper on a topic dealing with some major theological topic. Deal with the historical development of the doctrine. In other words, is the doctrine explained in the Quran, or does it come from hadith? Do all Muslims share the same belief; do they all view it in the same way (Sunni, Shia, Folk Muslims, Sufi)? What is the Christian understanding of the topic? How is the Christian understanding of the doctrine similar to the Muslim understanding of the doctrine, and how is it different? The topic for the paper must be approved by the instructor.

The paper should be turned in to the faculty secretary by **January 24, 2005**, or forwarded to the instructor for grading and postmarked no later than **January 24, 2005**.

**Ken Ferguson
C/O CMM
2032 E. Kearney, Suite 205
Springfield, MO 65803**

NOTE: Late work will result in a 5% reduction in grade the first day it is late, and 5% for every week thereafter. If your paper is going to be late, e-mail me and let me know why. kenjferguson@cs.com

GRADING PROCEDURE

Pre-session reading reports	20%
Pre-session review of chapters from Quran	20%
Four daily summaries during the session	20%
Post-session paper	40%

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abdul-Haqq. *Sharing Your Faith with a Muslim*. Minneapolis: Bethany, 1980.

Acad, Fouad. *Building Bridges to Islam*. Colorado Springs: Navpress, 1997.

- Braswell Jr., George W. *What You Need to Know about Islam and Muslims*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 2000.
- Braswell W. Jr. *Islam: Its Prophet, Peoples, Politics, and Power*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1996.
- Campbell, William. *The Qur'an and the Bible in the Light of History and Science*. Upper Darby, PA: Arab World Ministry, n.d.
- Geisler, Norman L. & Abdul Saleeb: *Answering Islam*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.
- Gibb, H.A.R. and J.H. Kramers, eds. *Shorter Encyclopedia of Islam*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1973.
- Gilchrist, John. *Facing the Muslim Challenge*. Cape Town: Life Challenge Africa, 2002.
- _____. *The Christian Witness to the Muslims*. Benoni, The Republic of South Africa: Jesus to the Muslims, 1986.
- Kateregga, Badru D. & David W. Shenk: *Islam & Christianity*. Nairobi, Kenya: Uzima, 1980.
- Malek, Sobhi. *Islam: Introduction and Approach*. Irving, TX: International Correspondence Institute, 1992.
- McCurry, Don. *Healing the Broken Family of Abraham*. Colorado Springs: Ministries to Muslims, 2001.
- Miller, Roland E. *Muslim Friends Their Faith and Feeling: An Introduction to Islam*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1995.
- Morin, Harry. *Responding to Muslims*. Springfield, MO: CMM, 1994.
- Parrinder, Geoffrey. *Jesus in the Qur'an*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1977.
- Pfander, C.G. *The Balance of Truth*. London: Religious Tract Society, 1910.
- Pharshall, Phil. *Inside the Community*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.
- Woodberry, J. Dudley, Ed. *Muslims & Christians on the Emmaus Road*. Monrovia, CA: MARC, 1989.

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Ken Ferguson July 26, 2005