

# Assemblies of God Theological Seminary

## MCSM 639 Studies: Popular Islam

Harry Morin

Fall 2006  
October 16-20, 2006

### COURSE SYLLABUS

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Most Muslim people do not aspire to fulfill the rigid requirements of classical Islam. Nevertheless, they are religiously active. They hold on to a variety of Islamic beliefs and rituals that derive from Islamic tradition and folk practices. This course will uncover these hidden aspects of Islam in order to better understand and address the immediate felt needs of common ordinary Muslims.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Distinguish the “other realm” of religion that lies beneath the surface of orthodox Islam.
2. Describe the practices of Muslim people that point to folk religion
3. Appreciate the influence the *hadith* has on the Islamic community
4. Explain how Islam leaves the door open to demonic influence
5. Recognize the necessity for spiritual warfare

#### REQUIRED READING

Ali, Abdullah Yusuf. *The Qur'an: Translation*. Istanbul: Asir Media, 2002.

Ferne, Elizabeth Warnock. *A Street in Marakech*. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press, Inc. 1988.

Love, Rick. *Muslims, Magic, and the Kingdom of God: Church Planting Among Folk Muslims*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2000.

Musk, Bill. *The Unseen Face of Islam: Sharing the Gospel with Ordinary Muslims*. London: MARC, 1989.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

1. Sufi saints and shrines
2. Spirit beings, powers, and practitioners
3. Popular beliefs about Muhammad and Jesus
4. Muslim etiquette and superstitions
5. Special events and holidays
6. Implications and applications for Christian ministry

## **METHODOLOGY**

Lecture, discussion, case studies, and visual aids

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **A. Pre-session**

1. Write a three-page report for each of the three textbooks (except the Qur'an) summarizing the material and expressing your impressions.
2. Write a three-page discussion about your experience reading the Qur'an. As you read the Qur'an, make note of any common elements with Christian teaching, as well as references related to folk practices. Include some of these observations in your written discussion. Share your evaluation, both positive and negative.

**DUE DATE** for all pre-session work: **Monday, October 16, 2006**

### **B. Session**

Attend all class sessions and be prepared to participate in discussion and group activity.

### **C. Post-Session**

#### **1. Take-home Exam**

Complete and submit a take-home exam postmarked no later than **Nov.03, 2006**.

## 2. Course Paper

Write a 15-20 page paper that deals with some topic related to the discussion of this course. The topic must first be approved by the instructor. This course paper should be forwarded to the instructor for grading and postmarked no later than **February 02, 2007**. Send to:

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

or e-mail to [harrymorin@yahoo.com](mailto:harrymorin@yahoo.com)

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

### GRADING PROCEDURE

Pre-session reading reports	20%
Class participation	10%
Take-home exam	30%
Post-session paper	40%

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dretke, James. *A Christian Approach to Muslims: Reflection from West Africa*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1979.

Eickelman, Dale F. Ed. *Russia's Muslim Frontiers: New Directions in Cross-Cultural Analysis*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1993.

Fernea, Elizabeth, W., ed. *Women and the Family in the Middle East: New Voices of Change*. Texas: University of Texas Press, 1985.

Gowing, Peter. *Understanding Islam and Muslims in the Philippines*. Quezon City: New Day Publishers, 1988.

Humble, Arnold Leon. *Power as a Cultural Theme in Java: Its Interaction with Harmony*. Pasadena, CA: Fuller Theological Seminary, 1993.

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

Martin, Richard C. *Islam: A Cultural Perspective*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1982.

Mujeeb, M. *The Indian Muslims*. Montreal, Canada: McGill University Press, 1967.

Mutalib, Hussin. *Islam in Malaysia*. Singapore: Singapore University Press, 1993.

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

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

Woodberry, Dudley. Ed. *Muslims and Christians on the Emmaus Road: A Crucial Issue in Witness Among Muslims*. Monrovia, CA: MARC, 1989.

### **SPECIFIC DATA**

Syllabus prepared by Harry Morin, March 17, 2006