

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Springfield, Missouri**

**MCSM 639 The Gospel and Islam
September 9-30, 2008
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Evenings
5:30 to 8:30 pm
(3 Credits)**

Instructor: Ken Ferguson, D.Min.

Fall, 2008

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COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An overview of Islam, including a study of its historical background, development, spread and its prophet. The study will note key theological differences between the two religions. The course is intended to develop understanding of the similarities and differences between Christianity and Islam as a tool for communicating the Gospel to Muslims. Special attention will be given to the religious, cultural and political crucible out of which Islam arose, and its influence upon Muhammad and his religion. The discipleship of Muslim Background Believers will be addressed.

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. Describe the major beliefs and practices of Muslims.
3. Explain the major similarities and differences within Islam and the development of those differences, as well as explain the differences between Christianity and Islam.
4. Identify the major Islamic objections to the Christian faith and doctrine.
5. Prepare a biblical defense of the major Christian doctrines that Muslims find objectionable.
6. Develop an appreciation for the value of using the Quran in answering Muslims.
7. Understand and appreciate the importance of the Islamic calendar, along with its festivals and celebrations.
8. Begin to develop a philosophy of approach and ministry to Muslims, including discipleship.

TEXTBOOKS

REQUIRED

- Braswell, George W. Jr. *What You need to Know About Islam & Muslims*. Nashville: Broadman & Homan Publishers, 2000.
- Chacour, Elias with David Hazard. *Blood Brothers*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Chosen Books, 2003.
- Ferguson, Ken. *In Search of Baraka* (class notes). Springfield: CMM. 2008. The Instructor will provide these work books.
- Katteregga, Badru D. & David W. Shenk. *A Muslim and a Christian in Dialogue*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1997.
- Morin, Harry. *Responding to Muslims*. Springfield: CMM, 2000.
- Musk, Bill. *Touching the Soul of Islam*. Grand Rapids: Monarch Books, 2004.

RECOMMENDED:

- Ali, A. Yusuf. *The Quran: Translation*. Elmhurst, NY: Tahrike Tarsile Qur'an, Inc., 2000.
- Love, Fran and Eckheart, Jelata, Eds. *Ministry to Muslim Women: Longing to Call Them Sisters*. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 2000.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction to the course.
2. Historical Background of Islam
3. Life of Muhammad
4. Islamic Belief
5. Islamic Practice
6. Christianity and Islam
7. Islam and Violence
8. Folk Islam
9. Discipleship

METHODOLOGY

The primary method of instruction will be lecture and discussion. Instruction 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 following text books in this order: Braswell, Katteregga & Shenk, and Musk.

3. Write an eight-ten page response to the reading. The paper should be typewritten and double spaced. **Briefly** summarize all three books, and then respond by relating what you have learned about the world of Islam from this information. Feel free to compare the books or contrast, but in a few pages tell me what you have learned about Islam and Muslims.

DUE DATE: September 2, 2008.

B. Session

1. Punctual attendance at all sessions is expected. Maximum allowable absence is two sessions. Talk to the professor about your absences.
2. Read the class notes and *Responding to Muslims*.
3. Take an exam over the material discussed in session. **September 30th.**

C. Post-Session

1. Read Chacour. Write a one page response. Do not summarize, just respond to the book. This report should accompany your research paper.
2. Ladies may choose to substitute Love & Eckheart for Chacour.
3. Write a 15 page typewritten paper on any topic dealing with Islam. The paper should be type written, double spaced and properly referenced. The topic for the paper must be approved by the instructor by September 30. A hard copy of the paper should be turned in to the faculty secretary by **December 5, 2008.**

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

Although I have provided my phone number, be aware that I will be out of the country much of October until the 24th or 25th of November. It would be best to contact me by e-mail during that time.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Pre-session reading response	20%
Exam	40%
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 Dr. Ken Ferguson July, 2008.