

**Jesus and Islam (THEO6329/PHIL6329)**

Thursday nights 6:30-920

Fall 2015

Team Teachers

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**Seminary Mission Statement**

The mission of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

**Course Purpose, Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies**

This course is designed to assist students in understanding the Islamic teaching about Jesus of Nazareth and extend a gospel witness to them solidly based in biblical theology employing several apologetic methods. Among the curriculum competencies addressed in this course are Christian theological heritage, disciple making, and biblical exposition. New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This course addresses each of these values in several ways. The President has designated Mission Focus as the Core Value for 2015-16. This course enables students to fulfill the great commission and our mission among Muslims.

**Course Description**

This course of study involves the student in a historical, philosophical, and theological exploration in the Islamic understanding of the person and work of Jesus Christ. The student will also examine how Muslim apologists employ these teachings and develop apologetic methods to challenge these views. Students will engage in guided research into Muslim teachings of who Jesus is and their understandings of his God-given task and work. Negative and positive apologetics methods needed to address Muslims in Christocentric ways will be topics of discussion throughout this course.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of the course the student will:

- Be familiar with Islamic Christology and Muslim teachings about Jesus Christ and his ministry.
- Appreciate the relationship of Islamic culture to Muslim views of Jesus and appreciate the need for theological and apologetic strategies to address this complex worldview.
- Be equipped to engage in Christian apologetics by responding to Islamic teaching about Jesus and by sensitive explanation of the work and person of Christ to Muslims.

**Course Teaching Methods**

The course will involve the following methodologies:

- Students will read extensively in the area of Islamic Christology.
- Students will conduct guided research on subjects within Islamic teachings about Jesus and present papers for peer review.
- Students will listen to Muslims concerning their understandings of Jesus and His work.

- Students will participate in discussions of distributed articles and texts.
- Students will interact with the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 statements, with their scriptural support, concerning the person and work of Christ and His work (Articles 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9).
- Students will respond to lecture, audio and video materials.

### Textbooks

*The Holy Bible* (your preferred English version).

*The Qur'an* (any published English translation is acceptable).

Greeson, Kevin. *The Camel: How Muslims are Coming to Faith in Christ!* Arkadelphia: Wigtake Resources, 2007.

Leirvic, Oddbjorn. *Images of Jesus Christ in Islam 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. London: Continuum International, 2010.

Parrinder, Geoffrey. *Jesus in the Qur'an*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1977.

Anonymous. *The Gospel of Barnabas*. Brooklyn: A & B Publishers, 1993.

### Requirements

#### 1. Class Participation: 25%

**Attendance in an internet course is mandatory as this is not self or independent study. Participation in the group discussion board or group blog is mandatory.** The student is expected to demonstrate knowledge of the required reading by participating in weekly discussion.

#### 2. Unit Exams: 30%

Three exams.

- Unit 1. Jesus in the Quran and selected al Hadith
- Unit 2. Jesus and the Islamic Gospel and the attraction of the Gospel of Barnabas.
- Unit 3. Jesus, Contemporary Islam and Mission Strategies and research papers.

#### 3. Selected Research Project 25%:

The student will research a selected thesis. Students enrolled in the course PHIL6329 will be guided towards appropriate philosophical and apologetic research subjects. Those students enrolled in the course THEO6329 will be guided towards theological research subjects. Draft one page proposals are due September 7, 2015.

The one page proposal must contain the following:

- Student name, course number and date.
- Subject to be researched and proposed title.
- One sentence thesis (What are you trying to investigate? What is your theory or hypothesis?)
- One paragraph rationale (Why is this interesting to you? What sources exist for this research?)

The 20-25 page **formal** research paper shall be submitted to the assigned peer reviewer and professor at the beginning of class 3 weeks before presentation. Submission will be in MS word electronic format (not PDF nor Word Perfect or other processors) and hard copy. Lateness will result in major reductions in the grade. Translation: Papers due to be presented during class in the 7<sup>th</sup> week must be delivered to the professor and peer reviewer at the beginning of class in the 4<sup>th</sup> week.

#### 4. Peer Review of a Research Project 20%:

Each student will review one research project. The reviewer will receive the paper in electronic and hard copy forms 3 weeks before presentation. The reviewer will develop:

1. a critique of the paper:

- identifying the paper's theme and major points in a simple outline.
  - identifying the paper's strengths with 2 or more illustrations.
  - identifying the paper's weaknesses with at least 1 illustration.
2. a personal response or reaction to the paper. Did the researcher convey new and interesting information? Was the paper well organized and did the parts of the paper "fit together?" Did the paper evidence "word-smithing" that is, did the author spend time with the text to polish and perfect it? The reviewer will provide class members with a copy of the critique during class.

### **Reading and Activity Schedule**

#### **Readings and Assignments for Weeks 1-4:**

- Read *Jesus in the Quran*
- Prepare the written proposal for research project and submit to professor.
- Read the on line resources on Jesus and al Hadith
  - Sample source for the Bakhari collection of al Hadith  
<http://www.muslimsforjesus.org/Jesus%20in%20Hadith/jesusinhadith.htm>
  - Sample sources for the Muslim collection of al Hadith  
<http://www.usc.edu/dept/MSA/fundamentals/hadithsunnah/muslim/001.smt.html#001.0380>  
=Book 001, Number 0380:  
<http://hadith.al-islam.com/Loader>  
=713&BookID=687&TOCID=64&PID=102

#### **Readings and Assignments for Weeks 5-6:**

- Read *The Gospel of Barnabas*:
- Week 5 Review for the first Unit exam
- Week 6 Take the first Unit Exam: Jesus in the Quran and selected al Hadith

#### **Readings and Assignments for Weeks 7-8:**

- Read *Images of Jesus Christ in Islam* Page 1-126.
- Week 7: Review for the second Unit Exam: Jesus and the Islamic Gospel and the attraction of the Gospel of Barnabas
- Week 7: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, Jesus and the Islamic concept of Speech of God and Word of God. (note the paper topic may be divided due to class size)
- Week 8: Second Unit Exam
- Week 8: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, Islamic conception of the divine nature of Allah and the possibility of divine incarnation in Jesus Christ. (note the paper topic may be divided due to class size)

#### **Readings and Assignments for Weeks 9-10:**

- Read *Images of Jesus Christ in Islam* Page 127-270.
- Week 9: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, Islamic conception of Sin and sins and other issues in considering the need for a Savior of humanity found in Christ. (note the paper topic may be divided due to class size)
- Week 10: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, Islamic conception of atonement and vicarious suffering for humanity in Christ. (note the paper topic may be divided due to class size)

#### **Readings and Assignments for Weeks 11-12:**

- Read *The Camel: How Muslims Are Coming to Faith in Christ*
- Week 11: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, Islamic conception of the role of prophet and the honor of Allah as a limit to the Islamic role of Jesus. (note the paper topic may be divided due to class size)
- Week 12: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, Impact of the Qur'anic understanding of trinity- Father, Son and Mother god- on Muslims understanding of the mission of Jesus. (note the paper topic may be divided due to class size)

### **Readings and Assignments for Weeks 13-14:**

- Week 13: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, Impact of Qur'anic reporting of folk stories about Jesus alongside "headlines" of biblical accounts from the life of Jesus on Christian witness and missions. (note the paper topic may be divided due to class size)
- Week 13: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, Use of the Qur'an in witness to the Biblical Jesus in Muslim outreach. (note the paper topic may be divided due to class size)
- Week 13: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, Islamic understandings of who died on the Cross and Allah's purpose in raising Jesus to himself. (note the paper topic may be divided due to class size)
- Week 14: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, Islamic concept of the Gospel of Jesus contrasted and compared to the Biblical concept of Gospel and the 4 canonical Gospels. (note the paper topic may be divided due to class size)
- Week 14: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, and the missiological impact of church planting and discipleship among 1<sup>st</sup> generation Muslim Background Believers (in diaspora and in their homeland if there is a difference). (note the paper topic may be divided due to class size)
- Week 14: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, Jesus's role in Islamic end time visions and prophecies and the impact on Christian witness. (note the paper topic may be divided due to class size)

### **Assignments for Week 15 and 16:**

- Prepare for the final Unit Exam.
- Final Unit Exam

## **Selected Bibliography**

### *Primary Sources*

The Holy Bible

The Quran

Baqi, Fuwad Abdul, ed. *Al-Lu'Lu' Wal Marjan: A collection of Agreed Upon Ahadith from Al-Bukhari and Muslim vol 1 & 2*. Arabic and English translated by Muhammad Muhsin Khan, Lahore: Kazi Publications, 1990.

### *Secondary Sources*

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Bawer, Bruce. *While Europe Slept: How Radical Islam Is Destroying The West From Within*. New York: Doubleday, 2006.

Boisard, Marcel A. *Humanism in Islam*. Indianapolis: American Trust Publications, 1988.

Bramsem, Paul. *The Way of Righteousness: Good News for Muslims*. Spring Lake: CMMML. 1998.

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- Izutsu, Toshihiko. *Ethico Religious Concepts in the Qur'an*. Montreal: McGill-Queens University Press, 2007.
- Jabbour, Dr. Nabeel T. *The Crescent Through the Eyes of the Cross: Insights from an Arab Christian*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2008.
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- Karsh, Efraim. *Islamic Imperialism: A History*. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 2007.
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