



Christian Responses to Islamic Cultural Differences
(PHIL6306/THEO6334)
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Theology and History Division
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Mission Statement

The mission of 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.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values.

- 1. Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
- 2. Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
- 3. Mission Focus:** We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
- 4. Characteristic Excellence:** What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
- 5. Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment.

The core value focus for this academic year is *Characteristic Excellence*. This core value is addressed in that the student should be as prepared as possible to be ministers for Christ to diverse Muslim neighbors.

Curriculum Competencies

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying

seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

- 1. Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
- 2. Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
- 3. Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
- 4. Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
- 5. Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
- 6. Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
- 7. Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are *Christian Theological Heritage* and *Disciple Making*.

Course Description

This course provides an overview of the mosaic of Muslim worldviews with a brief survey of significance historic and modern Islamic movements and individuals representative of each worldview. A major element in examining each Islamic Worldview will be exploring ways to present Christian truth to adherents of the value system.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the workshop the student will:

- Be familiar with the major worldviews of the Islamic community.
- Understand the historical interaction between representatives of Islamic worldviews.
- Understand elements of sharing Biblical truth with Muslims adhering to each of the explored world views.
- Be better equipped to integrate theology and evangelism in addressing Islam.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

- The material for each lesson will be introduced in a lecture format.
- Students will read material in the assigned textbooks and journal articles
- Students will practice the skills and reinforce the content discussed in class through classroom exercises and experiences, and by completing the assigned selected theme project

Textbooks

The Holy Bible

The Qur'an

Muslims and the Gospel: Bridging the Gap, roland E. Miller, Minneapolis: Luthern University Press, 2005.

Honor & Shame: Unlocking the Door, Roland Muller, www.Xlibris.com, 2000

Course Requirements

1. Class Participation: The student is expected to demonstrate knowledge of the required reading by answering questions and contributing to class discussion on a daily basis.
2. Texts: A working knowledge of three Texts books will be needed to participate in daily group discussion. Each student will provide a 5 page critical review of *Islam and the West* and two page summaries of *Islam a Mosaic, Not a Monolith* and *No god but God*.
3. Selected Research Project: The student will research a selected subject. The topic must be submitted to the professor by email before the 2nd class meeting Sept 1.
Possible Topics:
 1. The development of schemes of Sunni Islamic rulers over history.
 2. The development of politically quiescent and theocratic ruling systems in Shi'ite Islam.
 3. The remnants of Sufi world view today and its ancient roots and power structures.
 4. The impact of non-Muslim world views and systems on the Islamic Middle East/ Southeast Asia/The subcontinent.
 5. The impact of the Zionist movement and Jewish return to the Holy Land within IslamNo two students will be allowed to research the same theme and approval for the theme will be given on a first-come basis.
4. Mid Term Exam: The questions should be answered thoroughly, with the answers reflecting knowledge of the required reading, class discussions, and presentations.
5. Final Exam: The questions should be answered thoroughly, with the answers reflecting knowledge of the required reading, class discussions, and presentations.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Class Participation:	20%
Text Review:	20%
Research Project:	40%
Midterm Exam:	10%
Final Exam:	10%

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Course Schedule

[Aug 25	Introduction and Overview
Sept 1-29	I. Classical Sunni Islamic worldviews
Sept 6	Global Missions Day (David Platt in Chapel)
Sept 27 7 PM	“talking about race”
Oct 6	Presentation of Paper topic 1
Oct 6,13, 27	II. Classical Shi’a Islamic worldviews
Oct 13 8-11	Recalibrate 2 Conference Leavell Chapel
Oct 17-21	Fall break
Nov 3	Mid-Term Exam
Nov 10	Presentation of Paper topic 2
	III. Sufi Islamic worldviews
Nov 17	Presentation of Paper topic 3
	IV. Interactive Islamic worldviews
Nov 24	Presentation of Paper topic 4
	V. Reactive Islamic worldviews
Dec 1	Presentation of Paper topic 5
	VI. Summary of the beginning of Christian Responses Discussion
Dec 8	Take Home Exam and Conclusion

Selected Bibliography

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- Armstrong, Karen. *Islam: A Short History*. Toronto, Canada: Random House, Inc., 2002
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- DeLong-Bas, Natana J. *Wahhabi Islam From Revival and Reform to Global Jihad*. New York, New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.

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- _____. *What Went Wrong: The Clash Between Islam and Modernity in the Middle East*. New York, New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2002
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