



**PHIL6307/ MISS6245-6345/ THEO6335**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Theology and History Division**  
**Fall 2017 T/TH (8:00-9:20 AM)**

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### **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 Description**

This course is an introduction to the religion of Islam, including history, core tenants, Islamic sects, *The Qur'an*, the life of Mohammed, and key doctrines. The class will have special emphasis on understanding the Islamic world in relation to the West and missions strategies to Islamic people groups.

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

The purpose of this course is to carry out the mission of NOBTS as is reflected through the core values and the core competencies in the following ways:

#### **Core Competencies:**

1. *Biblical Exposition*—the course will show how God's Word addresses the religions in the world.
2. *Christian Theological Heritage*—the history of interaction between Islam and Christianity will be explored to provide a proper foundation for current engagement.
3. *Disciple Making*—a biblically-based, Christ-centered approach will be applied to understand how to disciple Muslim background believers.

#### **Annual Core Value:**

Each year one of the NOBTS Core values is chosen to be emphasized in classes throughout the seminary. This year the value is *Servant Leadership*—We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

The student who successfully completes this course should be able to

- have a basic understanding of Islam's origin, history, practices, and beliefs.
- appreciate the rich contributions of Islamic life and culture to the West and the World.

- be equipped to critically engage current issues relating to the Islamic world and culture
- be equipped to apologetically and evangelistically engage Muslims

### Required Textbooks

- 1) Reynolds, Gabriel Said. *The Emergence of Islam: Classical Traditions in Contemporary Perspective*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2012.
- 2) Swartley, Keith. *Encountering the World of Islam*. Colorado Springs: Authentic, 2005.
- 3) Any copy of the Koran, but suggestions are listed in the bibliography.
- 4) Film: “Inside Islam,” available at <http://video.barnesandnoble.com/DVD/Inside-Islam/e/733961706529/?itm=1>.
- 5) Film: “Inside Mecca,” available at <http://video.barnesandnoble.com/DVD/National-Geographic-Inside-Mecca/Anisa-Mehdi/e/727994750420/?itm=1>.

### Course Notes and Other Materials

This class has supplemental material available in a blackboard shell which you will be enrolled in by the professor on the first day of class. It is required that you have sufficient internet access to complete the course. You can access the online resources for the class by logging on to Blackboard through the NOBTS website. Due to the large amount of material that will be covered in class, the student is strongly urged to download notes articles to either a local computer or print a hard copy.

### Course Requirements

- 1. Reading:** Students are expected to read all the assigned texts and participate in discussion of the reading in class. If the professor feels readings are being ignored by one or more class members reading quizzes will be the remedy for this educational problem.
- 2. Examinations:** Two exams will be given, a midterm and a final. Both the mid-term and the final will be taken online, with both objective and essay questions. Exams will be taken online and will be timed.
- 3. Research Paper:** Every student will write a paper to engage in in-depth research. The paper will be not less than 17 pages or more than 20 pages of content (for pieces and bibliography excluded). At least 15 diverse sources are required.

Each student must submit a research paper proposal sheet to have his or her topic approved. The topic approval sheet must contain the student’s name, paper title, thesis, and a beginning bibliography of several sources (articles, electronic sources and books).

Students are encouraged to employ the Write Stuff Writing center. Remember to allow time to process their guidance before final submission. Research papers must be submitted to Matthew Bryant’s email account [chaplainmatthewbryant@gmail.com](mailto:chaplainmatthewbryant@gmail.com) by 8 AM Tuesday Dec 5.

Rubric (standard) for grading Dr. Edens’ research papers (25 points towards the final grade):

Style and form (graded by TA)	5 points
Coherent statement of research idea	5 points
Concise and logical argument	5 points
Comprehensive research effort	5 points
Use of research sources	5 points

Each element of the grade is scored on a 5 point scale with 5 being excellent, 4 good, 3 average, 2 below average and 1 lacking this quality.

4. Each student will make speaker notes from each guest speaker and participate in a class discussion.

<b>Grading Summary</b>		<i>Grade Scale</i>
Daily discussions or quizzes	10%	A: 93 – 100
Final	25%	B: 85 – 92
Mid-term	25%	C: 77 – 84
Research Component	25%	D: 70 – 76
Discussion of guest speakers	15%	F: Below 70

### **IMPORTANT NOTICES**

Any kind of cheating on a quiz or exam is prohibited, along with plagiarism in research. As a violation of the Academic Integrity code to which you have agreed, cheating will be taken seriously. Each incident is handled in a case by case manner. However, penalties may include a zero on the assignment or failure of the course, and could lead to suspension or dismissal from the seminary.

In the event of hurricane or other disasters, the professor will contact you through your email address supplied in power campus or self-serve. We will complete our study.

### **Course Schedule**

#### **Week 1 August 22 and 24**

##### **Introduction of class, Course, Texts and Study tools**

##### **Assignments:**

Read: Swartley Lesson 1

Read: Reynolds Ch. 1

##### **Context of the Birth of Islam-1**

Read Swartley Lesson 2

#### **Week 2 August 29 and 31**

##### **Context of the Birth of Islam-2**

Read Swartley Lesson 3

Read Reynolds Ch. 2

Watch Film: “Inside Islam”

#### **Week 3 Sept 5 and 6**

##### **Emergence of Islam-1 Ethnic/Cultural understandings**

Read Swartley Lesson 4

Read Reynolds Ch. 3

#### **Week 4 Sept 12 and 14**

##### **Emergence of Islam-2 Political/Social understandings**

##### **Assignments**

Read Swartley Lesson 5

#### **Week 5 Sept 19 and 21**

##### **The Spiritual Content of the Qur’an for Muslims**

Read Swartley Lesson 6

Read Reynolds Ch. 4  
Receive the study guide for midterm exam

**Week 6 Sept 26 and 28**

**Islamic Concept of Prophecy**

**A) Divine Revelation and the Word of God in Islam B) Person and History of Muhammad**

Read Swartley Lesson 7  
Read Reynolds Ch. 5

**Week 7 Oct 3 and 5**

**Islamic Concept of Prophecy C) The 3 Heavenly Books (Moses, David, Jesus and Muhammad)**

Read Swartley Lesson 8  
Read Reynolds Ch. 5

**Week 8 Oct 10 and 12**

**Synergistic “pseudo” (since orthodox Muslims reject them) Islamic groups and their Prophets**

Read Swartley Lesson 9  
Read Reynolds Ch. 6

**Fall break Oct 15-21**

**Week 9 Oct 24 and 26**

Take the Midterm Exam.

**Women and Islam: Guest Speaker: Madelyn Edens**

Read Swartley Lesson 10  
Watch film: “Inside Mecca”

**Week 10 Oct 31 and Nov 2**

**Oct 31 Islamic doctrinal distinctive: Tawhid- the unity and singularity of the sovereign deity. Guest Speaker: John Brady VP IMB (supervising all overseas missionaries)**

**View videos from Unit one of Sabiil (Password from Dr. Edens)**

**Week 11 Nov 7 and 9**

**Discussion of guest speakers.**

**Islamic religious community, Ummah-the house of Islam and house of War (Ethnicity, tribe, clan, and family).**

Read Swartley Lesson 11  
Read Reynolds Ch. 7

**Week 12 Nov 14 and 16**

**Islamic religious practice- part 1: Paradise and Divine sovereignty**

**Thanksgiving week**

**Week 13 Nov 28 and 30**

**Islamic religious practice-part 2: Five measurable ways to submit to Deity.**

Read Reynolds Ch. 8  
Receive the study guide for final exam

**Week 14 Dec 5 and 7**

**Islamic religious practice-3 Islamic law and citizenship**  
**Submit Research papers to Matthew's email address**

**Conclusion: Jihad, and Greater Jihad**

**Receive take home exam to be emailed to [medens@nobts.edu](mailto:medens@nobts.edu) no later than 8AM  
Thursday Dec 14.**

### **Selected Bibliography**

#### *Primary Sources*

The Holy Bible

The Qur=an

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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Armstrong, Karen. *Islam: A Short History*. Toronto: Random House, Inc., 2002

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Ayubi, Nazih. *Political Islam: Religion and Politics in the Arab World*. New York: Routledge, 1991.

Betts, Robert B. *Christians in the Arab East: A Political Study*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1978.

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

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- Friedamn, Thomas L. *The Lexus and the Olive Tree: Understanding Globalization*. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1999.
- Garlow, James L. *A Christian's Response to Islam*. Tulsa: RiverOak Publishing, 2002.
- Geisler, Norman L.; Abdul Saleeb. *Answering Islam: The Crescent in Light of the Cross*. Baker Book House, 2002.
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