



Doctrine of God in Christianity and Islam
THEO/PHIL6332
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Theological and Historical Studies
Fall 2021
T/TR 9:30-10:50
NOLA2U Flex

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course to present the doctrine of God as foundational to all theological reflection. In fact, the discipline of theology may be defined as a sustained meditation on the being and purpose of God. In their understand of God, Christianity and Islam share some common roots but also manifest sharp and striking differences. The course explores these commonalities and differences as they developed historically, beginning with the early Islamic period beginning in 632 AD.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course the student will:

- Be familiar with the major historical and contemporary facets of Christian and Muslim views of God.
- Be competent to discuss major trends of changes in the presentation of the doctrine within the two faith communities.
- Appreciate differences between Islamic and Christian doctrines of God.
- Be better equipped to engage in respectful Christian agetics with Muslims based on the doctrine of God.

Textbooks

Bloesch, Donald G. *God the Almighty* Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Academic, 1995

Edens, Mike. *God as Revealed in the Bible and the Qur'an* (provided audio draft)

<http://www.allah.org>

<http://www.islamreligion.com/articles/195/>

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

Lecture and discussion.

- Students will read texts and view videos from Christian and Muslim thinkers on the Doctrine of God.
- Students will discuss important Muslim/Christian issues within the context of the doctrine of God.
- Students will interview and summarize a Muslim concerning that person's belief and practice of the doctrine of God.
- Students will conduct guided research on an aspect of the comparison of Christian and Islamic doctrines of God.

Course Requirements

1. Research Project

: 30%

Each student will research a selected topic. No two students will be allowed to research the same topic (see suggested topic below).

A. The 1-page proposal due by the end of day **Sept 6, 2021** 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?)

B. The research paper will be Turabian formatted and consist of a maximum of 5,000 words (20 pages), not including cover page and bibliography.

Due Dec. 1, 2021 8PM

Topics such as the following will be considered:

1. Is God knowable in Islam? Is the answer different in various Islamic communities (ie Sunni, Shi'a, Sufi, etc.).
2. The relationship between deity, spirit, and matter in Christianity and Islam.
3. The difference in the means and content of special revelation between the Christian and Islamic concept of deity. Is God knowable in Islam? Is the answer different in various Islamic communities (ie Sunni, Shi'a, Sufi, etc.).
4. The comparable content between the Christian and Islamic conception of deity as seen in special revelation.

5. A Comparison of Islamic and Christian Tawhid and Trinitarian concepts of Monotheism
6. The difference between biblical and qur'anic roles of God as (complete with one of the following)
 - a. Creator of all things spiritual and material
 - b. Lord of all in history and eternity
 - c. Judge of al
7. Human creation and the God of Christianity and Islam.
8. How does the God of Christianity and Islam respond to human need and sin? Compare and contrast.
9. Islamic objections to the biblical presentation of God's ethical holiness as opposed to Allah's bare separateness (otherness or holiness).
10. Islamic objections to the biblical presentation of God's justice and holiness which relates to redemption of humanity individually and corporately.
11. Christian objections to the qur'anic presentation of Allah's freedom to act capriciously with regard to his creation.
12. Christian objections to the qur'anic presentation of Allah's favoritism towards Muhammad.

Grading rubric for research papers:

- Content 40%
 - Coherent and Concise (15%)
 - Clearly organized structure of thought (25%)
- Sources 40%
 - Breadth of research (20%)
 - Selection of scholars to be quoted in the paper (are they representative of the religion?) (20%)
- Style and Form 20%
 - Word choice and polish (10%)
 - Turabian formatting, but be consistent (10%)

2. Attendance and participation in class or discussion board topics : 30%

Postings should reflect reading of required text and will be evaluated by the Professor. Post should be from 200-400 words and responses to other students' posts should be around 50-100 words. New discussion topics will open at the beginning of each of the first 6 units of study. It is suggested that students post as early as possible during the first week of each unit of study and respond to other post in the second during the second week. However it is true that some of the better responses are "on later thought" and a second though posted a week or more later. Discussion board posting will be closed on Thanksgiving day for the semester.

3. **Book Review (Bloesch Text)** : 20%
 Students will write a maximum 1,500 word (6 page) book review of the Bloesch text. Spend around 500 words (2 pages) in summation, followed by 1000 words (4 pages) of evaluation of the text.. **Due Oct 23, 2021**
4. **Summary of a Muslim interview** : 20%
 Students may either review the 6 English sub-titled videos of Arabic speaking Christians and Muslims with a ½ page review of each **or** write a 2-3 page verbatim or summary of an interview with a Muslim concerning his view of God. The professor strongly encourages students to seek out a local person to interview, however students, having diligently tried to find a person to interview must contact Dr. Edens by Oct 4 to be included in a come to meeting type interview to be set up in the first half of November. **Due Nov 20.** Interviews of sufficient value, in the view of the professor, will be included in the content of Unit 7.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Participation in Discussion	30%
Research Paper	30%
Muslim interview	20%
Book Review	20%

A = 93–100

B=85-92

C=77-84

D=70-76

F= 69 and below

Additional Course Information

This course uses Blackboard to assist with information distribution. The professor will post announcements and grades in the course shell. Students should check regularly as professor will also post links to helpful websites and videos.

In addition some students may employ the NOLA2U Flex option:

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Blackboard. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in the graduate catalog. \
2. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.
3. All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.
4. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.

Study Tips

1. Plan to study 2-3 hours for every 1 hour in class.
2. Read your textbook even when you do not expect to be tested on the material.
3. Rewrite your new class notes each week.

Policy Regarding Late Work

Late work will not be accepted without permission based upon a legitimate excuse and will be assessed a 5% daily penalty until 20% is reached.

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.

Writing Style Guide

A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

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

Week 1 (Begins Aug 16) Orientation and Unit 1: Overview of Christian and Islamic variant views of God

Week 2 (Begins Aug 23) Complete Unit 1

Week 3 (Begins Aug 30) Unit 2-4: Christian and Islamic Monotheism (main tenents)

Week 4 (Begins Sept 6) Complete Unit 2

Week 5 (Begins Sept 13) Unit 3: Contrasts between Allah of Islam and the living God

Week 6 (Begins Sept 20) Complete Unit 3

Week 7 (Begins Sept 27) Unit 4

Fall Break

Week 8 (Begins Oct 11) Complete Unit 4

Week 9 (Begins Oct 18) Unit 5 Religious impact on Christianity and Islam of the doctrine of God

Week 10 (Begins Oct 25) Complete Unit 5

Week 11 (Begins Nov 1) Unit 6 Apologetic import of Christian and Islamic doctrine of God.

Week 12 (Begins Nov 8) Complete Unit 6

Week 13 (Begins Nov 15) Unit 7 Missiological challenges and opportunities found in the Biblical and Qur'anic doctrines of God

Thanksgiving Break

Week 14 (Begins Nov 29) Finals week.

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, Pakistan: Kazi Publications, 1990.

Secondary Sources

Algar, Hamid. *Wahhabism: A Critical Essay*. Oneonta, New York: Islamic Publications International, 2002.

Armour, Rollin, Sr. *Islam, Christianity, and the West: A Troubled History*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 2002.

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

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Daniel, Norman. *Islam and the West* Oxford, England: Oneworld Publications, 1993.

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Garlow, James L. *A Christian's Response to Islam*. Tulsa, OK: RiverOak Publishing. 2002.

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- Shipp, Glover. *Christianity and Islam: Bridging the Two Worlds*. Webb City, Missouri: Covenant Publishing, 2002.
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