

Jesus and Islam (THEO6329/PHIL6329)

Defend the Faith

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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. New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This year the president has led us to focus on Spiritual Vitality. This course addresses each of these values in several ways. Among the curriculum competencies addressed in this course are Christian theological heritage, disciple making, and biblical exposition.

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 Quranic passages about the person and work of Christ and Islamic thought about Jesus.
- Comprehend the relationship of Islamic culture to Muslim views of Jesus and appreciate the need for theological and apologetic strategies to address this complex worldview.
- Appreciate the Islamic respect for Jesus in spite of the extra-biblical nature of their views.

- 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 develops in two patterns.

The graded version of the course will involve the following methodologies:

- Students will conduct guided research on subjects within Islamic teachings about Jesus.
- Students will engage in interviews of Muslims concerning their understandings of Jesus and His work.
- Students will participate in discussions of distributed articles and texts.
- Students will respond to lecture, audio, and video materials.
- 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 (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 2nd Edition*. London: Continuum International, 2010.

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

Requirements

Graded components:

- Participation: 35%

Attendance in person or by audio of all Defend the Faith 2015 breakout and plenary sessions is required. The student will demonstrate comprehension of these sessions by writing a one page reaction paper for 15 sessions (including each Islamic breakout sessions). Submit by email to medens@nobts.edu no later than April 1, 2015. Late submission will result in reduction of the grade.

- Response papers to required texts 30%

Reading, comprehending and responding to the three required text (beyond the Bible and Qur'an) is required. After reading each text the student will write a 3 page reaction paper (not a summary) responding to the book. The papers will be submitted by email to the professor as each is finished.

- Selected Research Project 35%:

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 January 27, 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 as a MSW document (not PDF) attached to an email sent to medens@nobts.edu no later than March 15, 2015. Late submission will result in reduction of the grade.

Reading and Activity Schedule

Assignments after the event:

- January 13, 2015. Open access to Jesus and Islam DTF Blackboard assisted course will be granted to students who are enrolled in self-serve.
- Prepare the written proposal for research project and submit by email to professor.

Assignments by March 15:

- Submit the research project

Assignments by April 1:

- Submit response to 15 breakout sessions.

All Assignments are due by April 15, 2015.

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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