



**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
Theological and Historical Studies Division **THEO6333/PHIL6333 Word of God in Christianity and Islam**

Internet version developed by Dr. Mike Edens

Page Brooks, PhD  
Associate Professor of Theology and Culture  
Email: pbrooks@nobts.edu  
Phone: 504-282-4455, ext 8011

---

*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.*

---

#### **Purpose of the Course**

This course is designed to expose the students to Islamic beliefs about prophecy and divine books. Special emphasis will be placed on understanding the complexity of beliefs surrounding the Qur'an. Students also will explore current theories for the origin of the present Qur'anic text. The desired outcome is that each student will be equipped to construct negative apologetic arguments in response to Islamic teachings about the Qur'an and the Bible.

#### **Core Value Focus**

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is ***doctrinal integrity***. We want everything we do to be characterized by offering the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

#### **Curriculum Competencies Addressed**

This course will address *Biblical Exposition, Theological and Historical Perspective, Servant Leadership, Interpersonal Relationship, and Disciple Making*.

#### **Course Description**

This course compares a biblical and Christian understanding of the doctrine of revelation and the Bible with Islamic teaching. The course will explore Muslim views about the Bible and Qur'an and the role of prophets and messengers. The relationship between general and special revelation in the Islamic worldview as well as human ability to perceive and respond to God will be discussed. The theoretical aspects of these issues will be balanced with the challenge to communicate a witness of Jesus Christ as Lord with persons absorbed in Islamic worldviews.

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student will

- Be prepared to compare cognitively and connotatively Islamic views of the Qur'an and Christian views of the Bible and Jesus Christ as Word of God.
- Be familiar with the Islamic views of revelation and the primary Qur'anic basis for these beliefs.
- Comprehend the relationships of Islamic culture which limit and shape Muslim views of the Bible.
- Appreciate the Islamic reverence for their book.
- Be familiar with the current arguments (both Muslim and non-Muslim) about the origin and codification of the Qur'an.
- Be equipped with skills to better engage in Christian apologetics with Muslims.

## Required Text Books

The Holy Bible: your preferred English version.

*The Generous Qur'an: an accurate, modern English translation of the Qur'an, Islam's holiest book.*  
Venice, FL: Usama Dakdok Publishing, 2009.

Dashti, 'Ali. *23 Years: A Study of the Prophetic Career of Mohammad translated by F. R. C. Bagley.* Costa Mesa, Ca: Mazda Publishers, 1994.

Esack, Farid. *The Qur'an: A User's Guide.* Oxford: One World, 2005.

Mattson, Ingrid. *The Story of the Qur'an: Its History and Place in Muslim Life.* Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2008.

McAuliffe, Jane Dammen, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to The Qur'an.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

[www.thesabiil.com](http://www.thesabiil.com) Dr. Mike Edens, developer, Sept. 2013

Recommended Text

Wansbrough, John. *Quranic Studies: Sources and Methods of Scriptural Interpretation.* Amherst: Prometheus, 2004.

### Course Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

- Students will conduct guided research on subjects within the general topic of Islamic teachings concerning special revelation, the contrast between the God of the Bible and Allah in respect to revelatory content, the role of a prophet, Jesus as a Muslim prophet, validity of other heavenly books, codification of the Qur'an, historical problems with content of the Qur'an and the general nature of the Qur'an.
- Students will assimilate large sections of readings both on-line and in print books and articles as well as view lectures and view on-line video content.
- Students will participate in discussions of lectures, readings, audio and video materials.
- Students will critique and engage in constructing negative apologetic arguments concerning the Islamic doctrine of revelation.

### Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

**NOTE: The professor will NOT accept emailed assignments; everything must be submitted via BlackBoard.** Students should begin each unit by watching the introductory video by Dr. Edens and reviewing the assignments. Some units will have PowerPoints and videos for you to review in addition to the assigned reading. Additionally, there will be a Discussion Board that you complete at the conclusion of covering all the material. Your specific assignments and requirements are below:

1. **Reflective Summaries (30 %):** [NOTE: This assignment is **not** required for your reading of the Qur'an itself, just the textbooks.] Each student is required to read the assigned reading for each unit from the required textbooks as listed in BlackBoard. You will then write a **2-3 page** (max) single-spaced, typed reflective summary over **each** of the assigned readings (e.g., one summary over Dashti, one over McAuliffe, etc.). No title page is necessary for these assignments, however, you should include your **name** at the top of each summary along with the title of the chapter(s)/article(s) you're summarizing and each of the following components clearly marked by headings: **(1) content summary, (2) positive/negative evaluations, and (3) applications to your understanding of Islamic views regarding the Word of God.** Please combine each unit's reading into one **PDF** document and submit that one document that contains all the reflective summaries for that particular unit by the time in the schedule below. For each day this assignment is late your grade will be reduced by 10%.
2. **Discussion Boards (30%):** At the conclusion of covering all the material for each unit, each student will select something from your reading that you believe requires further discussion. You can pose and answer a question or you can simply comment on some ideas from the reading. Posts should be from 400-500 words (max). Additionally, you're required to provide a 100-200 word (max) response to at least one of your classmates' answers. Please abide by the submission dates provided in the schedule below. For each day this assignment is late your grade will be reduced by 10%.
3. **Research Paper (40%):** Each student is required to write a double-spaced research paper in conformity with NOBTS guidelines of **12-15 pages** (max) on **one** of the following topics:

- a. The Qur'an professes to be a continuation of the Bible in revealing God's will for humanity. How do the qur'anic and Islamic arguments in this regard measure up to the actual teachings of the Bible?
- b. Abrogation, or superseding, in reference to Islamic revelation has several meanings, but common Muslims see the Qur'an as abrogating the Bible. Discuss this notion, provide examples, and discuss the difficulties it poses for Muslims and a Christian critique.
- c. The Qur'an identifies Jesus, *'Isā*, as a great prophet, faithful Muslim, who is not divine. Discuss the Qur'an notion of Jesus as the "Word" and compare and contrast this with the biblical view.
- d. The Qur'an identifies the Gospel, *Injil*, as a book confirming books that came before it, which was sent down to Jesus. Discuss the qur'anic and Islamic view of the "Gospel" and how that differs from the actual New Testament.
- e. Allah, the god of Islam, is said to be the God of the Christians and Jews; however, his character varies. Discuss various overlapping and non-overlapping attributes between the character of God in the Qur'an/Islam and the Bible.
- f. Historical facts are ignored or denied in the Qur'an, which is God-speech. (i.e., in the Qur'an, Mary, the mother of Jesus, is also Mariam—same name in Arabic-- the sister of Moses and Aaron). Discuss Islamic apologetic defenses of this topic and why they are unsatisfactory.
- g. The Qur'an is a reproduction of a tablet said to be eternally with Allah, which is a warning to all humanity in all cultures. Yet the content has large portions devoted to the management of Muhammad's unique family circumstance. Discuss Islamic apologetic defenses of this topic and why they are unsatisfactory.
- h. The Qur'an is only in Arabic yet the Arabic of the Qur'an is not pure. What does this say of Allah's "culture?" Discuss Islamic apologetic defenses of this topic and why they are unsatisfactory.
- i. Each language group is said to have a prophet in their language. Yet the Aramaic speaking Jewish nation of Jesus' day is said to revive a Greek book name—*Injil*. Discuss Islamic apologetic defenses of this topic and why they are unsatisfactory.
- j. Student initiated proposal (contact the professor directly)

Students should email the professor by **midnight 3/10/19** informing him which topic he/she intends to write about.

### Course Policies

#### **Appropriate Behavior**

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working with and communicating with others. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times.

#### **Academic Honesty Policy**

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, or exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or performing any other course requirement

## Grading

The NOBTS grading pattern applies to this course.

### Course Schedule

UNIT	DATES	ASSIGNMENTS
Introduction	1/21-2/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introductory Discussion Board due by midnight 1/29</li><li>• Familiarize yourself with the syllabus, BlackBoard, assignments, and requirements. Ask for clarification if there are questions.</li></ul>
Unit 1	2/3 – 2/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• See reading in BlackBoard</li><li>• Reflective Summary #1 due by midnight 2/12</li><li>• Discussion Board #1 due by midnight 2/12 (please respond to at least one of your fellow student's posts by the end of the following unit)</li></ul>
Unit 2	2/18 – 3/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• See reading in BlackBoard</li><li>• Reflective Summary #2 due by midnight 2/26</li><li>• Discussion Board #2 due by midnight 2/26 (please respond to at least one of your fellow student's posts by the end of the following unit)</li></ul>
Unit 3	3/4 – 3/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• See reading in BlackBoard</li><li>• Reflective Summary #3 due by midnight 3/12</li><li>• Discussion Board #3 due by midnight 3/12 (please respond to at least one of your fellow student's posts by the end of the following unit)</li><li>• Email professor with paper topic by midnight 3/12</li></ul>
<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
Unit 4	3/24 – 4/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• See reading in BlackBoard</li><li>• Reflective Summary #4 due by midnight 4/2</li><li>• Discussion Board #4 due by midnight 4/2 (please respond to at least one of your fellow student's posts by the end of the following unit)</li></ul>
Unit 5	4/8 – 4/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• See reading in BlackBoard</li><li>• Reflective Summary #5 due by midnight 4/16</li><li>• Discussion Board #5 due by midnight 4/16 (please respond to at least one of your fellow student's posts by the end of the following unit)</li></ul>
Unit 6	4/22 – 5/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• See reading in BlackBoard</li><li>• Reflective Summary #6 due by midnight 4/30</li><li>• Discussion Board #6 due by midnight 4/30 (please respond to at least one of your fellow student's posts by midnight 5/4)</li></ul>
FINALS WEEK	5/6 – 5/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research Paper due by midnight 5/4</li></ul>

## 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

Abdul-Haqq, Abdiyah Akbar. *Sharing your Faith with a Muslim*. Minneapolis: Bethany Fellowship, 1980.

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: Orbis Books, 2002.

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

\_\_\_\_\_. *Muhammad: A Biography of the Prophet*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, Inc., 1993.

Aslan, Reza. *No god but God*. New York: Random House, 2006.

Averroes. *Faith and Reason in Islam: Averroes' Exposition of Religious Arguments*. Translated by Ibrahim Najjar. Oxford: Oneworld, 2001.

Abd al-Masih. *The Main Challenges for Committed Christians in Serving Muslims*. Villach, Austria: Light of Life, 1996.

Accad, Fouad E. *Building Bridges: Christianity and Islam*, Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1997.

Addison, James Thayer. *The Christian Approach to the Moslem*. New York: AMS Press, 1966.

Anonymous. *Christian Witness Among Muslims*. Accra, Ghana: Africa Christian Press, 1971.

Bevan Jones, L. *Christianity Explained to Muslims*. Calcutta: YMCA Publishing House, 1952.

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

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

Braswell, George W. Jr., *Islam: Its Prophet, Peoples, Politics and Power*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996.

Bucaille, Maurice, *The Bible, The Qur'an and Science*. Indianapolis: North American Trust Publication, 1979.

Challen, Ed. *To Love a Muslim!* London: Grace Publications, 1988.

- Chapman, Colin. *Cross and Crescent: Responding To The Challenge Of Islam*. Leicester, England: Intervarsity Press, 1995.
- Christensen, Jens. *The Practical Approach to Muslims*. Marseille: North Africa Mission, 1977.
- Cooper, Ann. *Ishmael My Brother: A Christian Introduction to Islam*. Tunbridge Wells: MARC, 1993.
- Cragg, Kenneth. *Jesus and the Muslim: An Exploration*. Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 1999.
- Crossley, John. *Explaining the Gospel to Muslims*. London: United Society for Christian Literature, 1971.
- Daniel, Norman. *Islam and the West* Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 1993.
- Dashti, 'Ali. *23 years: A Study of the Prophetic Career of Mohammad*. Translated by F.R.C. Bagley. Costa Mesa: Mazda Publishers, 1994.
- DeLong-Bas, Natana J. *Wahhabi Islam from Revival and Reform to Global Jihad*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.
- Foreign Missions Conference of N. America. *Christian Literature in Moslem Lands*. New York: George H. Doran Company, 1923.
- Garlow, James L. *A Christian's Response to Islam*. Tulsa, OK: RiverOak Publishing. 2002.
- Gaudeul, Jean-Marie. *Called From Islam to Christ: Why Muslims Became Christians*. Sussex, England: MARC, 1999.
- Geisler, Norman L; Abdul Saleeb. *Answering Islam: The Crescent in Light of the Cross*. Baker Book House 2002.
- Ghattas, Raouf, and Carol B. *A Christian Guide to the Qur'an: Building Bridges in Muslim Evangelism*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2010.
- al-Ghazali. *The Incoherence of the Philosophers*. Translated by Michael Marmura. Provo: Brigham Young University Press, 2000.
- Goldsmith, Martin. *Islam and Christian Witness*. Bromley, Kent, U. K.: Hodder and Stoughton, STL Books, 1982.
- Greeson, Kevin. *The Camel: How Muslims are Coming to Faith in Christ*. Arkadelphia: WIGTake Resources, LLC., 2007.
- Gregorian, Vartan *Islam a Mosaic, Not a Monolith* Washington: Brookings Institution, 2003.
- Gilchrist, John. *The Christian Witness to the Muslim*. Benoni: Jesus to the Muslims. 1988.
- Haddad, Yvonne Yazbeck and Wadi Z. *Christian-Muslim Encounters*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1995.
- Haines, John. *Good News for Muslims*. Philadelphia: Middle East Resources, 1998.

Harris, George K. *How to Lead Moslems to Christ*. Philadelphia: China Inland Mission, 1957.

al-Imam, Ahmad Ali. *Variant Readings of the Qur'an: A critical Study of their Historical and Linguistic Origins*. London: The International Institute of Islamic Thought, 2006.

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.

Johnson, Donald and Jean Elloitt Johnson. *Universal Religions in World History: The Spread of Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam to 1500*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2007.

Karsh, Efraim. *Islamic Imperialism: A History*. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 2007.

Kepel, Gilles. *The War for Muslim Minds: Islam and the West*. Translated by Pascale Ghazaleh. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The Belknap Press, 2006.

Khalidi, Tarif, ed. and trans. *The Muslim Jesus: Sayings and Stories in Islamic Literature*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001.

Kuhn, Mike, *Fresh Vision for the Muslim World: An Incarnational Alternative*. Colorado Springs: Authentic Publishing, 2009.

Lawrence, Bruce B. *Shattering the Myth: Islam Beyond Violence*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1998.

Lawson, Todd. *The Crucifixion and the Qur'an: A Study in the History of Muslim Thought*. Oxford: Oneworld, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Reason and Inspiration In Islam: Theology Philosophy and Mysticism in Muslim Thought*. New York: I.

B. Tauris

Lewis, Bernard. *Cultures in Conflict: Christians, Muslims, and Jews in the Age of Discovery*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Islam and the West*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Assassins: A Radical Sect In Islam*. New York: Basic Books, 1967.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Crisis of Islam: Holy War and Unholy Terror*. New York: Random House, 2003.

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

Lia, Brynjar. *The Society of the Muslim Brothers in Egypt: The Rise of Islamic Mass Movement 1928-1942*. Reading: Ithaca Press. 1998.

Luxenberg, Christoph. *The Syro-Aramaic Reading of the Koran: A Contribution to the Decoding of the Language of the Koran*. Berlin: Verlag Hans Schiler, 2007.

- McAuliffe, Jane Dammen, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to The Qur'an*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- McCurry, Don M., ed. *The Gospel and Islam: A Compendium*. Monrovia: Missions Advanced Research and Communication Center, 1979.
- McCurry, Don. *Healing the Broken Family of Abraham: New Life For Muslims*. Colorado Springs: Ministries to Muslims, 2001.
- Mallouhi, Christine A. *Waging Peace on Islam*. Monarch Books, London, United Kingdom. 2000.
- Marsh, C.R. *Share your Faith with a Muslim*. Chicago Moody Press, 1975.
- Medearis, Carl. *Muslims, Christians, and Jesus: Gaining Understanding and Building Relationships*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2008.
- Miller, Dave. *The Quran Unveiled: Islam and New Testament Christianity in Conflict*. Montgomery: Apologetics Press, Inc, 2005.
- Miller, Roland E. *Muslims and the Gospel: Bridging the Gap*. Minneapolis: Lutheran University Press, 2005.
- Miller, Roland E. *Muslims and the Gospel: Bridging the Gap*. Minneapolis: Lutheran University Press, 2005.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Tools for Muslim Evangelism*. Belleville, Ontario, Canada: Essence Publishing, 2000.
- Miller, William M. *A Christian's Response to Islam*. Nutley, New Jersey: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 1976.
- Murata, Sachiko, and William C. Chittick, *The Vision of Islam*. St. Paul: Paragon House, 1994.
- Musk, Bill. *The Certainty Trap: Can Christians and Muslims Afford the Luxury of Fundamentalism?* Pasadena: William Carey Library, 2008.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Touching The Soul of Islam: Sharing The Gospel in Muslim Cultures*. Sussex, England: MARC, 1996.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Unseen Face of Islam: Sharing the Gospel with Ordinary Muslims*. Monrovia: MARC, 1989.
- Nasr, Vali. *The Shia Revival: How Conflicts Within Islam Will Shape the Future*. New York: W. Norton & Company, 2005.
- Nehls, Gerhard. *Premises and Principles of Muslim Evangelism*. Bombay: Life Challenge, 1991.
- Nigosian, S.A. *Islam: Its History, Teaching, and Practices*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2004.
- Oksnevad, Roy, and Welliver Dotsey. *The Gospel for Islam*. Wheaton: Evangelism and Missions Information Service, 2001.
- Parrinder, Geoffrey. *Jesus in the Qur'an*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1977.

Parshall, Phil. *The Cross and the Crescent: Understanding the Muslim Heart and Mind*. Waynesboro: Authentic Media, 2002.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Last Great Frontier: Essays on Muslim Evangelism*. Quezon City, Philippines: Open Doors, 2000.

Quasem, Muhammad Abul. *Salvation of the Soul and Islamic Devotions*. London: Kegan Paul International, 1981.

Qutb, Sayyid. *Social Justice in Islam*. Translated by John B. Hardie. Oneonta, New York: Islamic Publications International, 2000.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Basic Principles of the Islamic Worldview*. Translated by Rami David. North Haledon, New Jersey: Islamic Publications International, 2006.

Ur-Rahim, Muhammad 'Ata. *Jesus: Prophet of Islam*. Elmhurst, NY.: Tahrike Tarsile Qur'an, Inc., ND.

Register, Ray G. *Dialogue and Interfaith Witness with Muslims*. Kingsport: Moody, 1979.

Sells, Michael trans. *Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations*. Ashland: White Cloud Press, 1999.

Sfar, Mondher. *In search of the Koran: The True History of the Revealed Text*. Translated by Emilia Lanier. Amherst: Prometheus Books, 2008.

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

Sivan, Emmanuel. *Radical Islam: Medieval Theology and Modern Politics*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1985.

Spencer, Robert. *The Truth About Muhammad: Founder of the World's Most Intolerant Religion*. Washington: Regnery Publishing, Inc., 2006.

Swartley, Keith E., ed. *Encountering The World of Islam*. Littleton, Colorado: Authentic Media, 2005.

Vander Werff, Lyle. *Christian Mission to Muslims*. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1977.

Viorst, Milton. *In The Shadow of the Prophet: The Struggle For The Soul of Islam*. Boulder: Westview Press, 2001.

Warraq, Ibn, ed. *The Origins of the Koran: Classic Essays on Islam's Holy Book*. Amherst: Prometheus Books, 1998.

\_\_\_\_\_. ed. and trans. *What the Koran Really Says: Language, Text, and Commentary*. Amherst: Prometheus Books, 2002.

al-Ya'qoubiy, Shaykh Muhammad. *Complaint of the Qur'an*. Translated by Badr Shahin. Imam al-Mahdi (a.s) Center for Islamic Studies, 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_. *We and the West*. Imam al-Mahdi (a.s) Center for Islamic Studies, 2003.

#### **Electronic resources**

[Sharing the Gospel with Muslims Materials by John Gilchrist Answering Islam](#) [www.disciplethenations.org](http://www.disciplethenations.org)  
[www.thesabiil](http://www.thesabiil) Dr. Michael H. Edens August 2013