



Nazarene Theological Seminary

1700 E Meyer Blvd • Kansas City, MO 64131 • 816/268-5400

MSS 740: ISLAM AND ITS ENCOUNTER WITH CHRISTIANITY - BLOCK - SEMESTER II, 2010-2011

Essential Information

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available at http://support.nts.edu/index.php/Essential_Information. Additional technical support information can be found at <http://support.nts.edu>.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose and Master of Divinity Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS textbook information
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- *A Handbook for Inclusive Language*

Instructor Information

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Office Hours: Monday and Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or by appointment

Catalog Description

An introduction to Islam, with special attention given to its interaction with Christianity from the time of its earliest formation to the present.

Course Narrative & Rationale

This course is designed as an introduction to Islam, with special attention given to its interaction with Christianity from the time of its earliest formation to the present. A variety of topics are examined. Among these are: the historical context in which Islam originated; Muhammad, the man, his message, his role as “Messenger,” founder and leader of a new religious community; the internal development and geographic expansion of Islam following the death of Muhammad; the major beliefs and practices of Islam; Muslim-Christian relations through the centuries, including contemporary Muslim-Christian dialogue and issues connected with Christian witness to Muslims; and challenges and problems raised for Islam today by its unavoidable encounter with “modernity” and “post-modernity.”

In addition to learning *about* Islam, students also gain first-hand acquaintance with Muslim scripture (*Qur'an*), meet and talk with Muslims, and experience Muslim worship.

This course directly addresses the goal expressed in “A Global Perspective” (2010-2011 NTS Academic Catalog, p. 15) that students acquire “a significantly expanded understanding of and appreciation for cultures, worldviews, religions and social structures other than their own.” It also

directly addresses the concern expressed in the goals and objectives of all NTS degree programs that students gain an understanding of the contemporary environment in which ministry is carried out.

Course Outcomes

1. Students will become acquainted with the major ideas and themes of the *Qur'an* (*demonstrated* mainly through the reading the entire *Qur'an* in English translation and keeping - and presenting to the professor periodically for evaluation and feedback - a journal of one's thoughts and questions concerning the reading)
2. Students will become familiar with the essential beliefs and practices of Muslims (*demonstrated* through examinations, keeping of a *Qur'an* journal, and informed participation in class discussion).
3. Students will acquire knowledge of the broad outline of the history of Islam (*demonstrated* through examinations, and informed participation in class discussion).
4. Students will develop an awareness of some of the major internal and external challenges and issues facing Islam today (*demonstrated* through examinations, informed participation in class discussion, and participation in a group research/report project).
5. Students will gain insight into some of the main developments and issues involved in both Christian-Muslim dialogue and Christian witness to Muslims (*demonstrated* through examinations, informed participation in class discussion, participation in a group research/report project, participation in actual dialogue with individual Muslims and groups of Muslims).
6. Students will acquire resources to relate to Muslims and Islam in an informed and responsible manner and to witness to Christ before Muslims wisely and "Christianly" (foundations of this are *demonstrated* through all assigned work in the course; fruition of this can be demonstrated only in future ministry over time).

Required Texts & Course Materials

1. *THE QUR'AN: A NEW TRANSLATION* by M.A.S. Abdel Haleem, translator (Oxford University Press, 2008).
2. *A HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN-MULSIM RELATIONS*, Hugh Goddard (New Amsterdam Books, 2001).
3. *CLAIMING ABRAHAM: READING THE BIBLE AND THE QUR'AN SIDE BY SIDE*, Michael Lodahl (Brazos Press, 2010).
4. *ISLAM: A GUIDE FOR CHRISTIANS AND JEWS*, F.E. Peters (Princeton University Press, 2005).
5. *ISLAM: A SHORT INTRODUCTION*, Abdulkader Tayob (Oneworld Publication, 1999).
6. *ARTICLES* (available on NTS MOODLE)

Course Outline

- I. Historical Context for the Rise of Islam
- II. Muhammad and the *Qur'an*
- III. The Muslim Community ("Ummah"): Belief and Practice
- IV. The Islamic *Ummah* and the Growth and Spread of Empire
- V. "Orthodoxy" and Dissent Within the Islamic *Ummah*
- VI. Contemporary Islam: Issues and Challenges - and Christian-Muslim Relations

Course Assignments & Requirements

Reasonable mastery of material presented in assigned reading or through the professor's classroom presentations/lectures, or other learning activities - to be evaluated by the professor through written examinations (there will be two exams - a mid-term and a final exam - both of which will include both objective and essay questions) and informed participation in classroom discussions.

1. Regular attendance and consistent participation in class discussion and other learning activities. Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be prepared to fully participate in class activities - especially scheduled class discussion of assigned reading (see the “Course Calendar” portion of the syllabus). Students that miss more than 20% of classes, or who are consistently poorly prepared for class discussion may have their final grade in the class significantly reduced. (Outcomes 2-6)
2. The keeping of a written notebook or journal containing notes and reflections on one’s reading in the *Qur’an* (see “Thoughts on Keeping the Qur’an Journal” made available by the professor for specific instructions and suggestions for completing this assignment). These journals/notebooks are to be submitted to the professor for evaluation and feedback at the times designated on the course calendar. (Outcomes 1,2,6)
3. Full participation in a group research and reporting project that explores some aspect of Islam. Each student joins with 2-3 other students to research and make a presentation to the class on a topic of significance for understanding Islam and/or Muslim-Christian relations. The results of this research are submitted to the professor in some material form (e.g., PowerPoint, written report, etc.) as well as reported on orally during a class session. The final one or two class meetings are given over to oral presentations reporting on this research. (Outcomes 4-6)
4. Participation with the professor and other class members in a visit to a local Islamic mosque to observe Muslim worship and to enter into dialogue with Muslims. This occurs on a Friday afternoon (the time at which Muslims are expected to gather for corporate prayer) sometime after the middle of the semester. Specific date and time is TBD. (Outcomes 5,6)

Distribution of Student Learning Hours

	hours
Face-to-face Class Sessions	38
Online Participation in forums, groups, etc.	0
Reading	59
Writing	20
Other Assignments and Learning Activities	15
Exams & Quizzes	6
TOTAL	138

Method for Submitting Assignments

All written assignments (primarily *Qur’an* journals) should be submitted on the course site on NTS MOODLE. There is a clearly marked link for each of the class assignments where completed work may be posted, and accessed by the professor. **All written assignments are due by 11:55 p.m. (Central time) of the day on which the assignment is due.**

Form and Style Expectations

There is no mandatory “style sheet” for this class. Students, are, however, expected to consistently follow one of the standard forms for theses and term papers. The most current Turabian style manual is always an excellent choice. **Qur’an journals are not required to be written in any particular “style”** - it is understood that they will consist of a collection of comments, reactions, questions, etc.

Inclusive Language

NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings. All written work presented to meet course requirements must use gender inclusive language.

Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams

As stated above, all assigned written work is to be submitted on the course site on NTS MOODLE no later than 11:55 p.m. (Central Time) of the day on which the assignment is due. Late work is reduced $\frac{1}{2}$ letter grade for every three days (or portion thereof) overdue. **Missed exams may not be made up at another time unless arrangements are made in advance with the professor, and for an exceptionally urgent reason.**

Course Grading

For all written work, the following criteria are employed in evaluation and grading: 1) **“A” quality work** - is superior in every way - writing is clear, essentially without error in syntax, grammar, spelling, word usage, etc. - content evidences very careful reflection, insight, and original thought; 2) **“B” quality work** - is above average - writing is generally clear, with few errors in syntax, grammar, spelling, word usage, etc. - content gives evidence of careful preparation and meets the minimum expectations of the assignment; 3) **“C” quality work** - average - writing is adequate, but may have errors - content is adequate - meets the minimum expectations of the assignment, but lacks insight and originality; 4) **“D” quality work** - below average - writing is poor, marred with excessive errors - content gives evidence of lack of insight or lack of understanding of the assigned material; 5) **“F” quality work** - failure to do satisfactory work - work gives evidence of haste, lack of careful preparation, lack of basic understanding of the assigned material.

FINAL GRADES IN THE COURSE WILL BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING WEIGHTING OF ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Regular and consistent informed participation in class discussion and other learning activities **counts 15% of the final grade.**
2. Each of the written exams **counts 20% of the final grade.**
3. The *Qur'an* journal/notebook **counts 25% of the final grade.**
4. The group research/presentation project **counts 20% of the final grade.**

In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies, which have been beneficial for the student in the past.

COURSE CALENDAR

Date	Topic	Assignment
Jan. 31-Feb. 7	I. Historical Context for the Rise of Islam	<u>Peters, 1-50</u> Goddard, 1-18 Lodahl, 1-43
Feb. 7-14	II. Muhammad and the <i>Qur'an</i>	<u>Peters, 51-126</u> Goddard, 19-33 Tayob, 1-30 Lodahl, 45-77
Feb. 21-28	III. The Muslim Community (<i>Ummah</i>): Belief and Practice	<u>Peters, 216-272</u> Tayob, 31-112 Lodahl, 79-126
MONDAY, FEB. 28	QUR'AN JOURNALS DUE (pp. 1-109, surah 1-7)	
MONDAY, MAR. 7	CLASS DISCUSSION	
Mar. 14-28	IV. The Islamic <i>Ummah</i> and the Growth and Spread of the Islamic Empire	<u>Peters, 127-155</u> Tayob, 113-137 Goddard, 34-108 Lodahl, 127-169
WEEK OF MAR. 13-19 EXAM #1 AVAILABLE ON NTS MOODLE		
March 21-25	READING AND RESEARCH WEEK	
MONDAY, MAR. 28	QUR'AN JOURNALS DUE (pp. 110-251, surah 8-28)	
Mar. 28-Apr. 4	V. "Orthodoxy" and Dissent Within the Islamic <i>Ummah</i>	<u>Peters, 156-215</u> Lodahl, 171-207
MONDAY, APR. 4	RESEARCH PROJECTS DUE	
MONDAY, APR. 11	CLASS DISCUSSION	
Apr. 18-May 2	VI. Contemporary Islam: Issues and Challenges – and Muslim-Christian Relations	<u>Peters, 273-276</u> Tayob, 139-160 Goddard, 109-199
MONDAY, APR. 25	QUR'AN JOURNALS DUE (pp. 252-end, surah 29-114)	

WEEK OF MAY 1-7 EXAM #2 AVAILABLE ON NTS MOODLE