

PHIL6307/MISS6245/MISS6345
WORLD RELIGIONS: ISLAM
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Disclaimer: This syllabus is intended to give the student a general idea of the content, format, and textbooks used for this class. The professor will submit a full syllabus at the beginning of the class which will contain a course schedule and the instructor's information.

SEMINARY MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment 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 Koran (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, CORE VALUE FOCUS, AND CURRICULUM
COMPETENCIES 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 Values addressed:

1. *Doctrinal Integrity*—a proper grasp of God's truth as revealed in His Son, Jesus Christ, through His Word while addressing other religions of the world.
2. *Spiritual Vitality*—the study of truth always carries an implicit call to commitment, including missions and apologetics.
3. *Mission Focus*—the content of the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) permeates the material covered by this course.
4. *Characteristic Excellence*—the ultimate significance of the Gospel requires that its ministers demonstrate a clear understanding of doctrinal truth and having a clear understanding of other religion's doctrines.

Core Competencies addressed:

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

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The student who successfully completes this course should be able to:

- have a basic understanding of Islamic beliefs
- understand the history of the religion
- appreciate the rich contributions of Islamic life and culture to the West
- be equipped to critically engage current issues relating to the Islamic world and culture
- be equipped to apologetically and evangelistically engage Muslims

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- 1) Swartley, Keith. *Encountering the World of Islam*. Colorado Springs: Authentic, 2005.
- 2) Greeson, Kevin. *Camel Method of Evangelism*. Available online at http://www.churchplantingmovements.com/camel_training_manual.htm.
- 3). Farah, Cesear. *Islam*. Hauppauge, NY: Barron's, 2003.
- 4) Any copy of the Koran, but suggestions are listed in the bibliography.
- 5) Film: "Inside Islam," available at <http://video.barnesandnoble.com/DVD/Inside-Islam/e/733961706529/?itm=1>.
- 6) 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 takes place in an online learning environment through Blackboard. 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. The correct section for this class is "Intro to Islam." Look for the course name and the instructor's last name.

The following are the student enrollment instructions for Blackboard:

1. Open your web browser to the seminary home page at <http://www.nobts.edu>
2. Click on the **Blackboard** link in the left-hand column. **(If you already have a Blackboard account, log in and skip to step 6. You need only one Blackboard account.)**

3. When the new page opens, choose the **Create Account** button on the left.
4. Enter in your information. (Note: Fields with a red asterisk are required fields). When finished entering your information, click **Submit**.
5. When the next page loads, confirming your registration, click **OK**.
6. Now, your personal NOBTS—Blackboard home page should appear. To enroll in a class, click on the **Courses** tab at the top of the page.
7. Under the **Course Catalog** section, choose the **Graduate** category.
8. You will see all courses for which you can register. Scroll down the page and choose to register for **Intro to Islam** by clicking on the **Enroll** button beside the course's name. Be sure to look for the correct course under the instructor's name.
9. Enter the access code provided by the Professor. The code is **BrooksIslam**. (Note: The access code is case sensitive).
10. Click **OK** when the confirmation page appears.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

NOTE: ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE BY THURSDAY NIGHT AT MIDNIGHT (U. S. - CENTRAL STANDARD TIME) OF EACH WEEK LISTED IN THE COURSE SCHEDULE.

1. ***Reading***
Students are expected to read all the assigned texts. Weekly quizzes are posted to test the student over the week's assigned reading.
2. ***Quizzes***
Quizzes will cover the material assigned for that particular week (see schedule below). Quizzes are 15 minutes in length. Quizzes must be taken by Thursday midnight of each week.
3. ***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.
4. ***Research Paper***
Every student will write a paper to engage in in-depth research. The paper should be at least **20 pages**, with at least **15 sources**. Each student must submit a research paper proposal sheet to have his or her topic approved by **the week after mid-term**. The topic approval sheet must contain the student's name, paper title, thesis, and 15 sources. The same sources used in the research proposal should be used for the research paper. Research papers may be submitted via the digital dropbox on Blackboard.

Each student will write a research paper review due during the last week of class. This paper will be a review of every other student's research

paper, including a one-paragraph summary of each paper, excluding the student's own paper.

5. **Book Review**

Students should complete 2 books reviews. Each book review should be approximately **10 pages**, double spaced. Students can select a book from the list that is attached to the syllabus. If a student wishes to review a book that is not listed on the syllabus, the student must seek the approval of the instructor before the mid-term test. Reviews are to be done in Turabian style. The first half of the report should be summary of the contents and the last half should be a critical review of the book including examination of the author's biases, strengths, weaknesses, audience, and personal insights or extrapolations. Book reviews may be submitted via email on Blackboard or as an email attachment directly to the professor.

6. **Powerpoint Presentations and Audio Recordings**

Students must download Powerpoint presentations and listen to the attached audio file during the week assigned. Material covered in the presentations and audio file will be tested in the weekly quizzes and mid-term exam and final exam.

7. **Discussion Boards**

Students will participate in weekly discussion boards topics posted under the "Groups" section of Blackboard. The topics for the board will relate to the reading topics and material presented in the audio recordings.

8. **Grading**

Summary

Participation	10%	Final	20%
Book Reviews	20%	Mid-term	20%
Quizzes	10%	Research Component	20%

Scale

A: 93 – 100
B: 85 – 92
C: 77 – 84
D: 70 – 76
F: Below 70

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS:

Each week, a student may have the following assignments:

- 1) Readings
- 2) Audio recordings
- 3) Weekly quiz
- 4) Weekly recorded update from the professor
- 5) Discussion board
- 6) Special assignments, book reviews, etc.

SUPPORT FROM THE PROFESSOR:

The professor of the course provides the following support for students in their studies:

- 1) Contact through phone or email.
- 2) Weekly recorded update from the professor. Each week the professor will upload an audio recording. In this recording will be a reminder of the weekly assignments, suggestions for further studies, prayer requests, and other items of business for the class. Also, the professor will answer questions submitted by email from the class.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

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.

Netiquette Statement on Appropriate Online Behavior

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. 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 will be expected at all times in the online environment.

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