

THEO6329/PHIL6329 JESUS AND 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 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 Muslims 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 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 Qur'anic passages about the person and work of Christ.
- Be familiar with development of Islamic teachings about Jesus Christ over time.
- Comprehend the relationship of Islamic culture to Muslim views of Jesus and appreciate the need for theological and apologetic strategies to address this complex world view.
- Appreciate the Islamic respect for Jesus in spite of non-biblical content.
- 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 will involve the following methodologies:

- Students will conduct guided research on subjects within Islamic teachings about Jesus and present papers in group discussion boards.
- 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 interact with the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 statements, with their scriptural support, concerning the person and work of Christ and His work (Articles 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9).
- Students will respond to lecture, audio and video materials.
- Students will engage in constructing both positive and negative apologetic arguments.
- 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.

Anonymous. *The Gospel of Barnabus*. Brooklyn: A & B Publishers, 1993.

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.

Requirements

1. **Class attendance and Participation: Attendance in an internet course? Where in your discussion group. It is mandatory this is not self or independent study. Participation in the group discussion board or group blog is mandatory.** The student is expected to demonstrate knowledge of the required reading by completing on-line unit exams and participating in discussions. (the average of unit grades from each component will be 30% of final grade. **60%**
 - a. **Interaction with Required Texts:** Discussion groups will be set up during the first week of class. A working knowledge of the sections of the required texts will be needed to participate in the various phases of blackboard group discussions. **30%**
 - a. **Unit Exams:** Seven exams will be administered on the internet. **30%**
1. Introductory material and readings.
2. Qur'anic content about Mary and the Birth of Jesus and readings.
3. Qur'anic content on the life and ministry of Jesus and readings.
4. Hadith and other Islamic Sources concerning Jesus and readings.
5. Distinctive Shi'a interactions with Jesus and readings.
6. Other Islamic expressions, Jesus and readings.
7. Islam, Jesus and Christian witness and readings.

3. Selected Research Project:

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. A draft of a one page proposal is due January 27, 2012.

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 final proposal, after dialog through various means, is due in writing February 17, 2012.

The 20-25 page **formal** research paper shall be submitted in the assignment folder for the week of April 30, 2012. It is due at 5 PM on that Monday. Lateness will result in major reductions in the grade. **40%**

Extra Point Assignment

Students may earn up to 3 extra points against the final course grade through involvement in the Greer-Heard Point-CounterPoint Forum (April 13-14 2012). To earn this credit, students must register for, attend, and write a reaction paper to the total event. The paper may be 3-5 pages and narrative in format. The paper should be submitted to Dr. Edens by email at medens@nobts.edu by April 14 at 5PM.

Reading and Activity Schedule

Readings and Assignments for Weeks 1-2:

Jan, 18, 2012 Open access to Jesus and Islam Internet Spring 2012 Blackboard course ID [-PHIL6329-THEO6329-01].

Jan 18: Go to case study group and introduce yourself to your case study group.

Read *Barnabus*: introductory remarks through page 10 (section 11)

Read *Jesus in the Quran*: introductory remarks through page 54.

Read *The Camel*: introductory remarks through page 20 (pages 22-52 is not required though interesting reading).

Read *Images of Jesus Christ in Islam 2nd Edition*: preface through page 33.

Prepare the written assignment (**initial** proposal for research project) submit by Email to professor.

Dialog with the professor, grader, and your discussion group on reading assignments through the group blog. It is expected that each student will post comments during the first week and respond to each of the other members no later than the end of the second week (midnight Friday of the second week).

Take the unit exam on line: Introductory material and readings (open from Jan 25 0005 until Jan 30 2355) see note on exams above.

Readings and Assignments for Weeks 3-4:

Read *Barnabus*: (section 12-41) pages 11-54.

Read *Jesus in the Quran*: 55-74.

Read *The Camel*: 55-78.

Read *Images of Jesus Christ in Islam 2nd Edition*: page 34-47.

Dialog with the professor, grader, and your case study group on the questions on the group blog. It is expected that each student respond to the questions during the third week and respond to their group members no later than the end of the fourth week.

Take the unit exam on line: Qur'anic content about Mary and the Birth of Jesus and readings (open from Feb 8 0005 until Feb 13 2355) see note on exams above.

Readings and Assignments for Weeks 5-6:

Read *Barnabus*: (section 42-90) pages 54-115.

Read *Jesus in the Quran*: 75-91.

Read *The Camel*: 79-103.

Read *Images of Jesus Christ in Islam*: 54-73.

Prepare the written assignment (**final** proposal for research project) due in Dr. Edens' inbox medens@nobts.edu by Monday evening of the 5th week.

Dialog with the professor, grader, and your case study group on the questions on the group blog. It is expected that each student respond to the questions during the fifth week and respond to their group members no later than the end of the sixth week.

Take the unit exam on line: Qur'anic content on the life and ministry of Jesus and readings (open from Feb 22 0005 until Feb 27 2355) see note on exams above.

Readings and Assignments for Weeks 7-8:

Read *Barnabus*: (section 91-137) pages 115-176.

Read *Jesus in the Quran*: 92-104.

Read *The Camel*: 104-128.

Read *Images of Jesus Christ in Islam* Page 74-82.

Dialog with the professor, grader, and your case study group on the questions on the group blog. It is expected that each student respond to the questions during the seven week and respond to their group members no later than the end of the eighth week.

Take the unit exam on line: Hadith and other Islamic Sources concerning Jesus and readings (open from Mar 7 0005 until Mar 12 2355) see note on exams above.

Readings and Assignments for Weeks 9-10:

Read *Barnabus*: (section 138-184) pages 176-230.

Read *Jesus in the Quran*: 105-132.

Read *The Camel*: 129-147.

Read *Images of Jesus Christ in Islam* Page 83-106.

Dialog with the professor, grader, and your case study group on the questions on the group blog. It is expected that each student respond to the questions during the ninth week and respond to their group members no later than the end of the tenth week.

Take the unit exam on line: Distinctive Shi'a interactions with Jesus and readings (open from Mar 21 0005 until Mar 26 2355) see note on exams above.

Readings and Assignments for Weeks 11-12:

Read *Barnabus*: (section 185-204) pages 230-252.

Read *Jesus in the Quran*: 133-151.

Read *The Camel*: 151-160.

Read *Images of Jesus Christ in Islam* Page 107-220.

Dialog with the professor, grader, and your case study group on the questions on the group blog. It is expected that each student respond to the questions during the eleventh week and respond to their group members no later than the end of the twelfth week.

Take the unit exam on line: Other Islamic expressions, Jesus and readings (open from Apr 4 0005 until Apr 9 2355) see note on exams above.

Readings and Assignments for Weeks 13-14:

Read *Barnabus*: (section 205-222) pages 252-273.

Read *Jesus in the Quran*: 152-174.

Read *The Camel*: 163-172 (pages 173-193 gives ministry pointers and is not required reading.).

Read *Images of Jesus Christ in Islam* Page 221-270.

Dialog with the professor, grader, and your case study group on the questions on the group blog. It is expected that each student respond to the questions during the thirteenth week and respond to their group members no later than the end of the fourteenth week.

Take the unit exam on line: Islam, Jesus and Christian witness and readings (open from Apr 18 0005 until Apr 23 2355) see note on exams above.

Assignments for Week 15 and 16:

Submit your research paper on April 30, 2012

Selected Bibliography

Primary Sources

The Holy Bible

The Qur'an

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Secondary Sources

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

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

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

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