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## **Doctrine of God in Christianity and Islam (THEO6332/PHIL6332)**

Internet Version

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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.

### **Workshop Purpose, Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This workshop addresses Doctrinal Integrity and helps each student understand the essential historic and biblical values of the doctrine of God especially in contrast to the Islamic doctrine of God. Annually, the President will designate a core value that will become the focus of pedagogy for the year. For 2015-2016 academic year that Core Value is *Mission Focus*. The students in this course have opportunity to employ the content of the course in personal witness with a Muslim for extra credit.

### **Course Description**

This workshop is conducted within the context of the Defend the Faith special event of the NOBTS Institute of Christian Apologetics. The student will be exposed to historical, theological and apologetic realities in the contrasts and compatibilities of Christian and Islamic doctrines.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of the course the student will

- Be competent in discussing the major theological and practical facets of Christian and Muslim doctrines of God.

- Appreciate the apologetic task in communicating the doctrine of God in relationships with the Islamic community.
- Experience the skills of a learning community seeking to present respectful Christian apologetic content based in the doctrine of God, in discussion, debate and written forms with Muslims.

### **Course Teaching Methods**

The course will involve the following methodologies:

- Students will read texts from various sources and participate in guided discussions of the content.
- Students will make oral presentations on facets of the Christian and Muslim doctrines of God.
- Students will make written presentations based on assigned research on major aspects of the Christian and Muslim doctrines of God.
- Students will respond in discussion and critique to their peers, professor and guest with coherence and respect.

### **Textbooks**

Primary Sources:

The Holy Bible-any version is acceptable

The Qur'an-any version is acceptable

Secondary Sources:

Bloesch, Donald G. *God the Almighty* Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Academic, 1995

George, Timothy. *Is the Father of Jesus the God of Muhammad?* Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2002.

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

<http://thesabiil.com/videos?tid=20> All videos in Topic 3: The Nature of God (E. Lamie, M. Basiet, A. Turkey, M. Marei, and F. Samuel)

<http://www.allah.org>

<http://www.islamreligion.com/articles/195/>

### **Requirements**

1. Required Texts:

Reading or viewing of all assigned texts as demonstrated in on-line discussion. **25%**

2. Research Project:

The student will research a selected theme. Themes must be submitted to the professors

in writing by opening a discussion thread under the discussion forum: Research Topic by Feb 1, 2016. Subject suggestions are provided below. No two students will be allowed to research the same theme and approval for the theme may be granted after registration for the course is completed. The research projects will be posted in safe assign by April 1, 2016. **30%**

**Suggestions for Research:**

A communicable attribute of God in the Bible contrasted and compared to Allah. (see Millard Erickson or Wayne Grudem for attributes of God)

A incommunicable attribute of God in the Bible contrasted and compared to Allah. (see Millard Erickson or Wayne Grudem for attributes of God)

The impact of complex monotheism of the God of the Bible contrasted and compared to the radical monotheism of Allah of the Qur'an.

The impact on human salvation of the nature of God in the Bible and the Qur'an

The concept of human prophet as impacted by the nature of God in the Bible and the Qur'an.

God's relationship with material creation as impacted by the nature of God in the Bible and the Qur'an.

3. Oral presentation of apologetic content:

a. The student will develop two (2) concise conversational apologetic audio recordings (3-8 minutes) demonstrating the use of aspects of the doctrine of God in Muslim witness. The audio recordings will be posted on discussion board under a thread created by the student by the assigned date. Available topics with their assigned dates will be posted at the close of registration. **30 % (15% for each)**

b. Each student will listen to all other student presentations and provide written peer critique within the discussion board thread. The 4 parts of the evaluation shall be limited to the following: Coherence-does the discussion "hold together" and make sense logically; Balance-does the content draw on moral, spiritual, and social elements to "make the case" for the Christian doctrine of God; Positive argument- while the argument may demonstrate knowledge of negative elements of Islam the bulk of the material is actively presenting the God of the Bible and in no way denigrates Islam or other religions; Winsome- the argument is personal and seeks to draw the hearer into relationship. Each student's faithfulness in providing objective feedback will be evaluated by the professor. Students evaluating all presentations in a timely fashion (posting a response within 10 days of the creation of the thread) will receive **5%**. Student evaluations based on the rubric above for all threads **10%**

Extra Credit: Provide a verbatim ( as close to word for word transcript as possible) of a witness encounter with a Muslim in which the content of the doctrine of God plays a central part in the dialog. **5 points towards the final grade.**

Comment [EDM1]:

**Grading:** (NOBTS grading scale: A>92, B>84, C>76, D>69) Incomplete may be granted only by the Registrar. No assignments may be posted after May 12, 1916.

Discussion of Required Texts	25%
Research Project	30%
2 Oral Presentations	30%
Posted Responses	5%
Content of Responses	10%

**Schedule of Course content:**

Week 1 : Orientation and Unit 1: Review of the biblical doctrine of God

**Points to cross-reference the biblical context for a doctrine of God drawn from BF&M:**

**Ge** 1:1,2; 2:7; 18:1ff.; **Ex** 3:14; 6:60; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; **Le** 22:2; **De** 6:4; 32:6; **Ju** 14:6; **1 Ch** 29:10; **Jo** 26:13; **Ps** 2:7ff.; 19:1- 3; 51:11; 110:1ff.; 139:7ff.; **Is** 7:14; 43:3,15; 53; 61:1-3; 64:8; **Je** 10:10; 17:13; Joel 2:28-32; **Mt** 1:18-23; 3:16,17; 4:1; 6:9ff.; 7:11; 8:29; 11:27; 12:28-32; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 23:9; 27; 28:1-6,19; **Mk** 1:1, 9-12; 3:11; **Lu** 1:35; 4:1,18-19, 41; 11:13; 12:12; 22:70; 24:46,49; **Jn** 1:1-18,29; 4:24; 5:26; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:6-13,16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14,15-16,28; 17:1- 8, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; **Ac** 1:7-9; 2:1-4,22-24,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55-56; 8:17,39; 9:4-5,20; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; **Ro** 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8: 1-3,9-11,14-16,26-27,34; 10:4; **1 Co** 1:30; 2:2,10-14; 3:16 8:6; 12:3-11,13; 15:1-8,24-28; **2 Co** 5:19-21; 8:9; **Ga** 4:4-6; **Ep** 1:13-14,20; 3:11; 4:6,7-10,30; 5:18; **Ph** 2:5-11; **Co** 1:13-22; 2:9; **1 Th** 4:14-18; 5:19; **1 Ti** 1:17; 2:5-6; 3:16; 4:1; **2 Ti** 1:14; 3:16; **Tt** 2:13-14; **He** 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:8,12-15,24-28; 11:6; 12: 2, 9; 13:8; **1 Pe** 1:17; 2:21-25; 3:22; **2 Pe** 1:21; **1 Jn** 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:13-15; 5:6-7,9; **2 Jn** 7-9; **Re** 1:10,13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16; 22:17

View the Sabiil Topic 3: The Nature of God-- E. Lamie and be prepared to discuss his main points in discussion board this week.

Read *God the Almighty* pg 17-78.

Read *No God but God* pg xix-xxx

Week 2 : Complete Unit 1: Review of the biblical doctrine of God

View the Sabiil Topic 3: The Nature of God-- M. Basiet and be prepared to discuss his main points in discussion board this week

Read *God the Almighty* pg 79-136.

Week3 : Unit 2: Ways and Aspects in which Allah of Islam resembles God.

View the Sabiil in Topic 3: The Nature of God-- F. Samuel and be prepared to discuss his main points in discussion board this week

Read *God the Almighty* pg 137-165.

Read *Is The Father of Jesus the God of Muhammad?* pg 9-54

Week4 : Complete Unit 2

View the Sabiil in Topic 3: The Nature of God-- A. Turky, and be prepared to discuss his main points in discussion board this week.

Read *God the Almighty* pg 166-204.

Read *Is The Father of Jesus the God of Muhammad?* pg 55-68.

Week5 : Unit 3 Contrasts between the living God and Allah, the god of Islam

View the Sabiil in Topic 3: The Nature of God--M. Marei and be prepared to discuss his main points in discussion board this week.

Read *God the Almighty* pg 205-260.

Read *Is The Father of Jesus the God of Muhammad?* pg 69-140.

Week6 : complete Unit 3

Read *No God but God* pg 3-49.

Week7 : Unit 4 God's relationship with prophets compared and contrasted to Allah's with Muhammad the seal of Islamic prophesy

Read *No God but God* pg 50- 106.

Week8 : Complete Unit 4

Read *No God but God* pg 107- 139.

Spring Break

Research project due April 1.

Week9 : Unit 5 Religious impact in Christianity and Islam of the doctrine

Read *No God but God* pg 140- 170.

Week10 : Complete Unit 5

Read *No God but God* pg 171- 219.

Week11 : Unit 6 God's sovereignty compared and contrasted to Allah's determinism

Read *No God but God* pg 220-266.

Week12 : Complete Unit 6

Week13 : Unit 7 Apologetic and Missiological challenges and opportunities found in the biblical and qur'anic doctrines of God.

Week14 : Complete Unit 7

Week15 Finals week.

## 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.

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Daniel, Norman. *Islam and the West* Oxford, England: Oneworld Publications, 1993.

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