



NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Theological and Historical Studies Division

THEO6329/PHIL6329 Jesus and Islam

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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 assist students in understanding the Islamic teaching about Jesus of Nazareth and extend a gospel witness to them solidly based in biblical theology employing several apologetic methods. Among the curriculum competencies addressed in this course are Christian theological heritage, disciple making, and biblical exposition. 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. The President has designated Servant Leadership as the Core Value for 2017-18. This course enables students to fulfill the great commission and our mission among Muslims.

Core Value Focus

Spiritual Vitality – We are a worshipping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. The strongest witness of the living Christ is the vital walk and testimony of the witness.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

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

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 Islamic Christology and Muslim teachings about Jesus Christ and his ministry.
- Appreciate the relationship of Islamic culture to Muslim views of Jesus and appreciate the need for theological and apologetic strategies to address this complex worldview.
- 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.

Required Reading (see reading schedule below)

Primary:

Qur'ān – A PDF of Ali Quli Qara'i's translation is provided BlackBoard (you may also read and compare multiple English translations online at: <http://qb.gomen.org/QuranBrowser/>).

Ḥadīth – A PDF summary of the main hadiths on Jesus is provided in BlackBoard.

Books:

Beaumont, I. Mark. *Christology in Dialogue with Muslims: A Critical Analysis of Christian Presentations of Christ for Muslims From the Ninth to the Twentieth Centuries*. Colorado Springs, Colo.: Paternoster, 2005.

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

Articles/Essays/Chapters (provided in PDF by the professor in BlackBoard):

Ayoub, Mahmoud M. "Towards an Islamic Christology, II: The Death of Jesus, Reality or Delusion: A Study of the Death of Jesus in Tafsir Literature." *Muslim World* 70:2 (1980): 91–121.

Curry, Theodore A. "Mission to Muslims," In *Theology and Practice of Mission: God, the Church, and the Nations*, edited by Bruce Riley Ashford, 222–37. Nashville, Tenn.: B&H Academic, 2011.

Reynolds, Gabriel Said. "The Muslim Jesus: Dead or Alive?" *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 72:2 (2009): 237–58.

Robinson, Neal. "Jesus," In *Encyclopedia of the Qur'ān*, edited by Jane Dammen McAuliffe, 7–20. Leiden: Brill, 2001.

Tennent, Timothy C. "Is the Father of Jesus the God of Muhammad?," In *Theology in the Context of World Christianity: How the Global Church is Influencing the Way We Think About and Discuss Theology*, 25–51. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2007.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

NOTE: The professor will NOT accept emailed assignments; everything must be submitted via BlackBoard in PDF format.

1. **REFLECTIVE SUMMARIES (50%):** Students are required to complete the assigned reading for each unit from the required textbooks/articles/etc. as listed in the schedule below. You will then write a

1-2 page (max) single-spaced reflective summary over **each** reading assignment for **each** unit (e.g., if you have three reading assignments for a particular unit, you'd have a three-page reflective summary). The summary should include all of the following components clearly marked by headings for each unit's reading assignment: **(1) content summary, (2) positive/negative evaluations, and (3) applications to your understanding of Muslim views about Jesus.** Please **combine** each unit's summaries into **one PDF** document and submit that reflective summary via BlackBoard (see schedule below). No title page is necessary for these assignments; however, you should include your **name** at the top of each page of the combined summary along with the title of the chapter/article/etc. you're summarizing. There will be no make-ups and late assignments will receive a zero; however, your **one** lowest grade will be dropped.

2. **DISCUSSION BOARDS (20%):** Each unit includes at least one discussion board (DB) related to the reading assignments. 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 (excluding the introductory DB). Please abide by the submission dates provided in the schedule below. There will be no make-ups and late assignments will receive a zero; however, your **one** lowest grade will be dropped.
3. **RESEARCH PAPER (30%):** Each student is required to write a double-spaced research paper in conformity with NOBTS guidelines of **15-20 pages** (max) on a topic related to "Jesus and Islam." Students who have questions should consult with the professor or your NOBTS librarian via email/phone well in advance of any due dates. Additionally, students are to submit via BlackBoard a **one page proposal abstract** by **midnight 3/18** (students should use Spring Break to work on the paper). The abstract should include a single-spaced summary or outline of your research topic along with a list of **at least 5 books/essays/articles/chapters and 3 online sources.** Your paper is due by **midnight on 5/17.** The proposal abstract is a part of your grade. Below is a rubric that will be used to grade your research papers:
 - a. **Proposal Abstract (10 pts)**
 - b. **Format & Organization (10 pts)**
 - c. **Grammar & Style (15 pts)**
 - d. **Use of Sources (15 pts)**
 - e. **Content & Arguments (50 pts)**

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
(Subject to Changes)

| UNIT | DATES | ASSIGNMENTS |
|--|------------|--|
| Introduction & Unit 1 | 1/22–2/4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory Discussion Board due by midnight 1/24 (no response to your fellow classmates is required, but it is welcome) • Secure required books, familiarize yourself with the syllabus, schedule, BlackBoard, assignments, and requirements. Ask for clarification if there are questions. Get tech help if necessary: Blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu • Reading: (1) Robinson, “Jesus”; (2) Qur’an (read only the passages related to Jesus found in the black box on page 7 of Robinson’s article); (3) Hadith (read only the hadiths on Jesus provided in BlackBoard); (4) Curry, “Mission” • Look at the PowerPoint Lecture #1 in the “Lectures” section of BlackBoard. • Reflective Summary #1 due by midnight 2/4 • Discussion Board #1 due by midnight 2/4 (please respond to at least one of your fellow classmates’ posts by the end of the following unit) |
| Unit 2 | 2/5 – 2/18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: (1) Khalidi, <i>Jesus (Introduction)</i>; (2) Beaumont, <i>Dialogue (Forward, Preface, Introduction, Chs. 1-2)</i> • Look at the PowerPoint Lecture #2 in the “Lectures” section of BlackBoard. • Reflective Summary #2 due by midnight 2/18 • Discussion Board #2 due by midnight 2/18 (please respond to at least one of your fellow classmates’ posts by the end of the following unit) |
| Unit 3 | 2/19 – 3/4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: (1) Khalidi, <i>Jesus (Sayings #1-75)</i>; Beaumont, <i>Dialogue (Chs. 3-4)</i> • Look at the PowerPoint Lecture #3 in the “Lectures” section of BlackBoard. • Reflective Summary #3 due by midnight 3/4 • Discussion Board #3 due by midnight 3/4 (please respond to at least one of your fellow classmates’ posts by the end of the following unit) |
| Unit 4 | 3/5 – 3/18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: (1) Khalidi, <i>Jesus (Sayings #76-150)</i>; Beaumont, <i>Dialogue (Chs. 5-6)</i> • Look at the PowerPoint Lecture #4 in the “Lectures” section of BlackBoard. • Reflective Summary #4 due by midnight 3/18 • Discussion Board #4 due by midnight 3/18 (please respond to at least one of your fellow classmates’ posts by the end of the following unit) • Upload your paper proposal abstract in the “Research Paper” section by midnight 3/18 |
| SPRING BREAK (3/19 – 3/25) – Work on Papers | | |
| Unit 5 | 3/26 – 4/8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: (1) Khalidi, <i>Jesus (Sayings #151-225)</i>; Beaumont, <i>Dialogue (Chs. 7-8)</i> • Reflective Summary #5 due by midnight 4/8 |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board #5 due by midnight 4/8 (please respond to at least one of your fellow classmates' posts by the end of the following unit) |
| Unit 6 | 4/9 – 4/22 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: (1) Khalidi, <i>Jesus (Sayings #226-303)</i>; (2) Tennent, "Father" • Reflective Summary #6 due by midnight 4/22 • Discussion Board #6 due by midnight 4/22 (please respond to at least one of your fellow classmates' posts by the end of the following unit) |
| Unit 7 | 4/23 – 5/6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: (1) Ayoub, "Islamic Christology"; (2) Reynolds, "Muslim Jesus" • Reflective Summary #7 due by midnight 5/6 • Discussion Board #7 due by midnight 5/6 (please respond to at least one of your fellow classmates' posts by midnight 5/17) |
| FINALS | 5/7 – 5/17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Paper due by midnight 5/17 |

Selected Bibliography

Primary Sources

The Holy Bible

The Qur'an

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Secondary Sources

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- Ghattas, Raouf, and Carol B. *A Christian Guide to the Qur'an: Building Bridges in Muslim Evangelism*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2010.
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Electronic resources

[Sharing the Gospel with Muslims Materials by John Gilchrist Answering Islam www.disciplethenations.org](http://www.disciplethenations.org)
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