



Jesus and Islam PHIL/THEO6329
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Theological and Historical Studies Division
Spring 2019

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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.

Course Purpose, Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies

This course is designed to assist students understand the Islamic teaching about Jesus of Nazareth and extend a gospel witness to them 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. The core value for 2018-9 is Doctrinal Integrity: "Knowing the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. Our confessional commitments are outlined in the Articles of religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message 2000." 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 and theological exploration in the Islamic understanding of the person and work of Jesus Christ and how Muslim apologists employ these teachings. 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.

Textbooks

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.

PDF primary sources and chapters and articles provided within Blackboard:

Qur'an – 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/>).

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

Articles/Essays/Chapters:

- 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.

Requirements

- 1. Texts:** The integration of the reading material will be measured through 5 discussion questions corresponding to the 5 units of study. Students are advised to look at the questions which appear at the beginning of each unit and compose answers in parallel with the unit's readings. **39% of the final grade.**
- 2. Development of Research Project:** (suggested research topics will be available by the first day of class) The student will research a selected thesis. The topic will be declared after the first week of class. 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. Draft one page proposals are due after the first week of classes (Jan 29, 2019).
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? **11% of the final grade.**
- 3. The Research Project (Mar. 14, 2019). 30% of the final grade.**
Grade is based on the following 4 factors.
 - Thesis (expression and implementation in the paper) 30%
 - Strategy and coherence 30%
 - Research (assessment of the depth and width of the effort, quality of sources, and integration into the thesis) 30%
 - Style, polish and form 10%All projects are due in the discussion board site at midnight March 14. On the time of presentation (distant students will present by skype and be recorded in the week before their slot. They will respond to the questions voiced and written by blackboard discussion.) non-presenters are expected to have read the paper.
- 4. A reflective, first-person essay on the subject, "Barriers and Opportunities to consider and interact with in sharing the biblical Jesus with Muslims." The essay should be 5-8 pages in length. Citation for sources are required. Integration of thought and the field of study for effective outreach is the goal of the assignment. 20% of the final grade.**
Grade is base on the following 4 factors.
 - Thesis (expression and implementation in the paper) 30%
 - Strategy and coherence 30%
 - Research (assessment of the depth and width of the effort, quality of sources, and integration into the thesis) 30%
 - Style, polish and form 10%

Grade:

 - Discussion of reading assignments 39%
 - Research project
 - One page summary of proposal 11%
 - Research report 30%
 - Reflective Essay 20%

Reading and Activity Schedule

Intro: Jan 22

Jan 24-31

Unit 1 Readings and Assignments:

- Read pdf in black board *Jesus in the Quran*
- Prepare the written proposal for research project and submit to professor.

- Read the on line resources on Jesus and al Hadith
 - Sample source for the Bakhari collection of al Hadith
<http://www.muslimsforjesus.org/Jesus%20in%20Hadith/jesusinhadith.htm>
 - Sample sources for the Muslim collection of al Hadith
<http://www.usc.edu/dept/MSA/fundamentals/hadithsunnah/muslim/001.smt.html#001.0380>
=Book 001, Number 0380:
<http://hadith.al-islam.com/Loader>
=713&BookID=687&TOCID=64&PID=102
- Jan 29 John Brady IMB VP for Global Engagement will be skyped into class dialog on Jesus and Islam
- Read The Muslim Jesus 1-46

Feb 5-12 Unit 2 Readings:

- Read The Muslim Jesus 47-144

Feb 14-Mar 14 Unit 3a Readings:

- Read The Muslim Jesus 145-218
- Read Christology in Dialogue with Muslims 1-112
- Read Christology in Dialogue with Muslims 113-212

Spring Break

Unit 3b Assignments:

- Mar 26-28: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, Jesus and the Islamic concept of Speech of God and Word of God. (Brantley Ditto)
- Mar 26-28: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, Islamic conception of the divine nature of Allah and the possibility of divine incarnation in Jesus Christ. (Jade Grantham)

Fall Break Oct 19-23

Unit 4 Readings and Assignments:

- Reads
- Apr 2-5: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, Islamic conception of Sin and sins and other issues in considering the need for a Savior of humanity found in Christ. (Autumn Miller)
- Apr 2-5: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, Islamic conception Allah and his pardon for sin as a barrier to understanding biblical atonement and the vicarious suffering of Christ on the Cross. (Bob Beaman)
Presentaton by Nik and Ruth Ripkin after All Peoples Fellowship

Unit 5 Readings and Assignments:

- Readings
- Apr 9-11: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, Islamic conception of the role of prophet and the honor of Allah as a limit to the Islamic role of Jesus.(Lee Walton)

- Apr 9-11: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, Impact of Qur'anic lack of content to the title "Messiah" on Christian witness and missions especially among Folk Muslims. (...)

- Apr 16-18: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, Impact of Qur’anic objections to original sin and sacrificial atonement on Christian witness and missions especially among Folk Muslims. (...)
- Apr 16-18: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, Impact of Qur’anic limited reporting “headlines” of Jesus doing miracles narrated in the biblical accounts on Christian witness and missions especially among Folk Muslims. (...)
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- Apr 23-25: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, Impact of the Qur’anic understanding of trinity-Father, Son and Mother god- on Muslims understanding of the mission of Jesus. (Robyn Johnston)
- Apr 23-25: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, Impact of Qur’anic reporting of folk stories about Jesus alongside biblical accounts from the life of Jesus on Christian witness and missions especially among Folk Muslims. (...)
- Apr 30- May 2: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, Islamic understandings of who died on the Cross and Allah’s purpose in raising Jesus to himself. (...)
- Apr 30- May 2: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, Islamic concept of the Gospel of Jesus contrasted and compared to the Biblical concept of Gospel and the 4 canonical Gospels. (...)
- May 7-9: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, and the missiological impact of church planting and discipleship among 1st generation Muslim Background Believers (in diaspora and in their homeland. (...)
- May 7-9: Presentation of the paper: Islamic Christology, Use of the Qur’an in witness to the Biblical Jesus in Muslim outreach. (...)
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Selected Bibliography

Primary Sources

The Holy Bible

The Qur’an

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Secondary Sources

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

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Bawer, Bruce. *While Europe Slept: How Radical Islam Is Destroying The West From Within*. New York: Doubleday, 2006

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Geisler, Norman L.; Abdul Saleeb. *Answering Islam: The Crescent in Light of the Cross* Baker Book House 2002.

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