



Arabic Reading of the Qur'an II -THEO/PHIL6338
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Theological and Historical Studies
Fall 2021
Friday 9-11:40 (NOLA2U Flex)

Mike Edens
Distinguished Professor of Theology and Missions
Office: Dodd 104
Phone: (504) 282-4455 X 3751
Email: medens@nobts.edu

J. Scott Bridger, PhD
On line Instructor
Email: sbridger@criswell.edu

Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the Arabic language through a study of the Qur'an. The course also familiarizes students with the basic structure of the Muslim scripture, its textual history, and select qur'anic texts of interest to those engaged in ministry among Muslim peoples. THEO/PHIL6337 or equivalent work is required.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will demonstrate:

1. That they comprehend a basic knowledge of the Arabic language as found in selected readings of the Qur'an.
2. That they value the study of the Arabic language.
3. That they read the Qur'an more critically in relationship to the meaning of the Arabic language.

Textbooks

- Bridger, J. Scott. *Christian Exegesis of the Quran-A Critical Analysis of the Apologetic Use of the Quran in Selected Medieval and Contemporary Arabic Texts*. Pickwick: Eugene, OR, 2015.
- Jones, Alan. *Arabic through the Qur'an*. Islamic Texts Society: Cambridge, 2006. 331 pages. ISBN: 9780946621682.

Optional

QuranExplorer App (please download and purchase the full version):

1. Apple: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/quran-explorer/id451133186?mt=8>
2. Android:
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.quranexplorer.QuranExplorer>

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

- Lecture and discussion of Arabic language and grammar.
Memorization of Arabic vocabulary and grammar practices.
Discussion of principles for exegeting the Qur'an.

Course Requirements

NOTE: Please begin the course by viewing the all the videos in the section, “Introductory Videos.” Also, the professor does NOT accept emailed assignments. Please submit them according to the guidelines below:

I. Participation/Discussion Boards (10%): Rather than emailing the professor directly when questions about the material arise, students should pose their questions by starting a new discussion thread via the discussion board area. This will help facilitate broad discussion and comprehension of the material in an online format. Many of the questions you have will be similar to questions shared by your fellow students; thus, it is important to pose those questions in a public manner so that everyone can view the answers.

II. Weekly Submission of Homework Assignments (30%): Students can expect to spend at least 3 hours on each lesson from the primary textbook, *Arabic through the Qur'an* (we will cover lessons 21-40 during this semester). It is **strongly** recommended that you work on one lesson each day during the week and review regularly (**you will not succeed in acquiring Arabic if you attempt to cram all the work into one day!**). Weekly homework assignments must be done in the **order and format** below and submitted by the deadlines in BB. Please do them in a designated notebook. After doing the work for each lesson as outlined below, students are required to either submit their work during the class meeting during the day or **scan** their work and **submit** the designated lessons via BB in **PDF** format by 8PM on the Friday of the course schedule. Please use the **Jones Homework Form** found in BB as a coversheet for **each lesson** (all eight sections listed below must be clearly present **with titles** for **each lesson**—including a coversheet for each week’s collection of lessons.

1. Write your name and the lesson number at the top of the page.
2. Listen at least twice to the professor reading the vocabulary words for each lesson and repeat each word out loud after him (the audio files are in BB).
3. Write each of the lesson’s vocabulary words at least twice, saying them out loud in Arabic and English as you write them. Add the new vocabulary to your vocab cards (see the explanation below about vocab cards).
4. Read the lesson. Take notes on the main grammar points. Write a very brief summary of your understanding of the grammar in your homework in bullet format. For verb paradigms, declension patterns, lists of pronouns, etc., add those to your vocab cards.
5. Listen at least once to the professor reading the exercise phrases/sentences and repeat each word out loud after him (the audio files are in BB).
6. Write each of the lesson’s exercise phrases/sentences at least once in Arabic and then translate them into English. After translating, use the Key in the back of the Jones book to correct any mistakes.
7. Select at least two of the exercise phrases/sentences using the citations given in the lesson and look them up using the QuranApp (or at www.quran.com) in order to situate them in their broader context. Briefly comment (50-100 words) on the theology of the selected verses in your homework, noting key words, names, or phrases. Students’ comments should demonstrate an understanding of these phrases/sentences within their qur’anic context and offer a critique of the theological content from a biblical worldview.

8. Upon completion of all of these steps for each designated lesson, **scan** your homework with the **Jones Homework Form** as a coversheet (one for each lesson followed by your work for that lesson) and upload it in **one combined PDF** file to BB by the due date for each week.

Vocab Cards: Students are strongly encouraged to record each lesson's new vocabulary on 3x5 vocab cards with the Arabic on one side and the English on the other. You should include important lists (e.g., the pronouns from lesson three, pg. 26; the demonstratives from lesson six, pg. 39), verb paradigms (e.g., the verbs in lesson twelve, pgs. 75, 77), etc. in your vocab cards. To keep track of your work, you should put a number at the top corner of your cards indicating the lesson from which the vocabulary words derive (e.g., "1" for lesson one). It is highly recommended that you review your vocabulary daily. While this is strongly recommended, you will not be graded on whether you use vocab cards.

- III. Mid-Term Exam (15%):** An online (take-home) mid-term exam will be administered according to the schedule in BB. Late submissions will be reduced by 10% per day.
- IV. Qur'anic exegesis paper (30%):** Each student is required to develop a translation and exegetical study from a Qur'anic passage from a list made available during the first week of class. Students will employ Turabian formatting and submit a double spaced paper of 6-8 pages the content guidelines listed below in the syllabus. The paper is to be submitted via BlackBoard in PDF format on the first class day after semester break before 8PM Central time.
- V. Leading Discussion of Dr. Bridger's book (15%):** Each of the 5 chapters of Dr. Bridger's book will be the subject of class discussion in the final sessions of class. If the student is local or can broadcast live during the class period assigned that will be the mode-an individual student leading discussion of the chapter. If a flex student cannot broadcast live (via BlueJeans) the student will prepare a 18-28 minute video addressing the chapter which will be played during class time and class discussion will ensue.

**** IMPORTANT NOTES:** The professor does **NOT** accept emailed assignments. All written assignments must be turned in the class period before the 8PM Friday deadline **or** scanned and submitted **via BB in PDF format only** (assignments with multiple pages must be combined into one file for each assignment, not separate files). No other formats will be accepted. **Students should make sure they have access to a scanner (NOT the camera on your phone) in order to complete all assignments on time.**

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Participation in Discussion	10%
Weekly homework	30%
Qur'anic exegesis	30%
Mid Term Exam	15%
Discussion leadership	15%

A = 93-100

B=85-92

C=77-84

D=70-76

F= 69 and below

Additional Course Information

This course uses Blackboard to assist with information distribution. The professor will post announcements and grades in the course shell. Students should check regularly as professor will also post links to helpful websites and videos.

In addition some students may employ the NOLA2U Flex option:

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Blackboard. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in the graduate catalog.
2. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.
3. All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.
4. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture

Study Tips

1. Plan to study 2-3 hours for every 1 hour in class.
2. Read your textbook even when you do not expect to be tested on the material.
3. Rewrite your new class notes each week.

Policy Regarding Late Work

Late work will not be accepted without permission based upon a legitimate excuse and will be assessed a 5% daily penalty until 20% is reached.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Writing Style Guide

A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

Help for Writing Papers at "The Write Stuff"

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Course Schedule

(NOTE: Class will meet for 3 academic hours on Friday. The homework assignments listed for each week are due on Friday by 8PM)

- Aug 20: Week 1 Overview and Lesson 21 and 22
- Aug 27: Week 2 Lessons 23 and 24
- Sept 3: Week 3 Lessons 25 and 26
- Sept 10: Week 4 Lessons 27 and 28
- Sept 17: Week 5 Lessons 29, 30 and 31
- Sept 24: Week 6 Lessons 32 and 33
- Oct 1: Week 7 Lessons 34 and 35
- Fall Break
- Oct 15: Week 8 Lessons 36, 37 and 38 **and** Mid-Term Exam
(see Overview Week 1) Due Oct 22 8 PM.
- Oct 22: Week 9 Lessons 39 and 40
- Oct 29: Week 10 Paper Presentation and Discussion of Ch 1 Bridger
- Nov 5: Week 11 Paper Presentations and Discussion of Ch 2 Bridger
- Nov 12: Week 12 Paper Presentations and Discussion of Ch 3 Bridger
- Nov 19: Week 13 Paper Presentations and Discussion of Ch 4 Bridger
- Thanksgiving Break
- Dec 3: Week 14 Paper Presentation and Discussion of Ch 5 Bridger

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Abdo, Daud. *A Course in Modern Standard Arabic: Part 1*. Beirut: Khayats, 1962.
- _____. *A Course in Modern Standard Arabic: Part 2*. Beirut: Khayats, 1962.
- al-Warraki, Nariman Naili, and Ahmed Taher Hassanein. *The Connectors in Modern Standard Arabic*. Cairo: The American University in Cairo, 1994.
- Alkhuli, Muhammad Ali. *A Dictionary of Islamic Terms*. Swaileh, Jordan: Dar AlFalaha, 2001.
- Badawi, El-Said M., and Haleem Abdel, M. A. *Arabic-English Dictionary of Qur'anic Usage*. Leiden: Brill, 2008.
- Benmamoun, Elabbas. Perspectives on Arabic Linguistics Xix: Papers From the Nineteenth Annual Symposium on Arabic Linguistics.
- Amsterdam studies in the theory and history of linguistic science. Current issues in linguistic theory ; v. 289. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 2007.
- Blau, Joshua. *A Grammar of Christian Arabic, Based Mainly on South-Palestinian Texts From the First Millennium*. Louvain: Secrétariat du CorpusSCO, 1966.
- Cook, Michael. *The Koran: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford, 2000.
- Doniach, N. S., Safa. Khulusi, N. Shamaa, and W. K. Davin. *The Concise Oxford English-Arabic Dictionary of Current Usage*. New York: Oxford, 1982.
- Frangieh, Bassam K. *Anthology of Arabic Literature, Culture, and Thought From Pre-Islamic Times to the Present*. Vol. Yale language series. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2005.
- Gutas, Dimitri. *Greek Thought, Arabic Culture: The Graeco-Arabic Translation Movement in Baghdad and Early 'Abbasid Society (2nd-4th/8th-10th Centuries)*. New York: Routledge, 1998.

- Halloun, Moin. *A Practical Dictionary of the Standard Dialect Spoken in Palestine. An internal and experimental ed.* ed. Jerusalem: M. Halloun, 1997.
- Haywood, John A., and H. M. Nahmad. *A New Arabic Grammar of the Written Language.* Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1982.
- Haywood, John A., H. M. Nahmad, and John A. Haywood. *Key to a New Arabic Grammar of the Written Language.* London: Lund Humphries Publishers, 1964.
- Jeffery, Arthur. *The Foreign Vocabulary of the Qur'an.* Leiden: Brill, 2007.
- Jones, Alan. *Arabic through the Qur'an.* Islamic Texts Society: Cambridge, 2006.
- Khalil, Aziz M. *A Contrastive Grammar of English and Arabic.* Jerusalem: Jordan Book Centre, 1999.
- Lane, Edward William. *An Arabic-English Lexicon.* Beirut: Librairie du Liban, 1968.
- Reynolds, Gabriel Said, ed. *The Qur'an in Its Historical Context.* New York: Routledge, 2007.
- _____. *The Qur'an and Its Biblical Subtext.* New York: Routledge, 2010.
- _____. *New Perspectives on the Qur'an: The Qur'an in Its Historical Context 2.* New York: Routledge, 2011.
- _____. *The Emergence of Islam: Classical Traditions in Contemporary Perspective.* Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012.
- _____. "Variant Readings." TLS (2015): <http://www.thetls.co.uk/tls/public/article1589562.ece>
- Ryding, Karin C. *A Reference Grammar of Modern Standard Arabic.* New York: Cambridge University, 2005.
- Scheidlin, Raymond P. *201 Arabic Verbs: Fully Conjugated in All the Forms.* Woodbury, N.Y.: Barron's Educational Series, inc., 1978.
- _____. *501 Arabic Verbs: Fully Conjugated in All the Aspects in a New, Easy-to-Learn Format, Alphabetically Arranged.* Hauppauge, NY: Barron's, 2007.
- Schulz, Eckehard, Günther Krahl, and Wolfgang Reuschel. *Standard Arabic: An Elementary-Intermediate Course.* Rev. English ed. ed. New York: Cambridge University, 2000.
- Small, Keith E. *Textual Criticism and Qur'an Manuscripts.* Lanham, Md.: Lexington Books, 2011.
- Sterling, R. *Arabic and English Idiom, Conversational and Literary.* Beirut: Librairie du Liban, 1960.
- Swanson, Mark N. "Arabic as a Christian Language." Available at: <http://www2.luthersem.edu/mswanson/papers/indonesia%20Arabic.pdf>
- Thackston, W. M. *An Introduction to Koranic and Classical Arabic: An Elementary Grammar of the Language.* Bethesda, Md.: Ibex, 1994.
- Thomas, Richard W. *A Wordbook of Religion: English-Arabic.* Beirut: Dar al-Mansurat al-Nafir, 1969.
- Wehr, Hans. *A Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic.* 4. ed., considerably enl. and amended by the author. ed. ed. J. Milton Cowan. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1979.

Wright, W. *A Grammar of the Arabic Language*. Beirut: Libraririe du Liban, 1896.

Yellin, A., and L. Billig. *An Arabic Reader*. 3d ed. New York: Johnson Reprint Corp., 1963.

Zammit, Martin R. *A Comparative Lexical Study of Qur'ānic Arabic*. Boston: Brill, 2002.