



THEO/PHIL6333 Word of God in Christianity and Islam
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Theological and Historical Studies
Spring 2023—Tuesday 2:00-4:50
NOLA2U Flex

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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

This course compares a biblical and Christian understanding of the doctrine of revelation and the Bible with Islamic teaching. The course will explore Muslim views about the Bible and Qur'an and the role of prophets and messengers. The relationship between general and special revelation in the Islamic worldview as well as human ability to perceive and respond to God will be discussed. The theoretical aspects of these issues will be balanced with the challenge to communicate a witness of Jesus Christ as Lord with persons absorbed in the Islamic worldview.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student will:

- Develop a love and respect for Muslim peoples and their cultures.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the origins of Islam as a tradition that emerges in conversation with biblical topics and theology.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the primary sources of authority for Muslims (e.g., the Qur'an, hadith, etc.).
- Be familiar with Muslim views of divine revelation as well as the philosophical and theological background of those views.
- Demonstrate knowledge of Muslim arguments against veracity of the Bible as divine revelation and Christian responses to those arguments.

Required Textbooks

Qureshi, Nabeel. *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2014. ISBN: 9780310515029.

Reynolds, Gabriel Said. *The Emergence of Islam: Classical Traditions in Contemporary Perspective*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012. ISBN: 9780800698591.

Nickel, Gordon D., ed. *The Quran with Christian Commentary: A Guide to Understanding the Scripture of Islam*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2020. ISBN: 9780310534723.

Course Requirements

- A. **PARTICIPATION (10%)**: Active participation in discussions, in-class readings, etc., is expected and absences will negatively impact your participation grade (you cannot participate if you are not present). At the discretion of the professor, a participation grade **under 80%** will result in a letter grade reduction; **74% or lower** will result in an “F” for the course.
- B. **READING QUIZZES (20%)**: During the designated weeks, five quizzes be administered to determine the student’s comprehension and mastery of the **Reynolds and Qureshi books** (see the schedule below). The quizzes are **open book**, but they are timed. The quiz is due at **midnight** before the following class period.
- C. **CHAPTER/ARTICLE REFLECTIVE SUMMARIES (20%)**: During the designated weeks, students are to read the assigned chapter/article provided by the professor on Canvas. Students will then submit a **1 page, single-spaced reflective summary** with your name at the top and the chapter/article title you’re summarizing. Each of the following elements should be found in the summary, clearly delineated by titles: (1) Description and Summary of Key Ideas/Findings; (2) Positives and Negatives; (3) Implications and/or Applications.
- D. **QUR’AN JOURNAL (20%)**: During the designated weeks, students are to read the assigned portions from **Nickel’s Qur’an** and **summarize key findings in a journal** (i.e., a Word document). Students should record key themes, teachings, theological topics, descriptions of God, comparisons/contrasts with the Bible, etc. Each reading, date, etc. should be clearly identified in the journal. For each week’s reading, students should record **700-1000 words (2-3 double-spaced pages) of reflections**. The Qur’an Journal is to be **uploaded to Canvas in PDF format by midnight, May 9**.
- E. **RESEARCH PAPER (30%)**: Students are to select one biblical/qur’anic personality/prophet (e.g., David, Abraham, Moses, Joseph, Noah, Jesus, etc.) to research write an 15-20 page, double-spaced research paper. Emphasis should be on the role this personality/prophet plays in the Qur’an’s/Islam’s salvation-historical narrative as compared with the role of that person in the Bible’s salvation-historical narrative. Below is a suggested breakdown of the paper, though students are free to use their own titles, subtitles, etc. as they prefer (a grading rubric can be found in Canvas):
- Introduction
 - Qur’anic/Islamic Depiction of “_____”
 - Literary Comparison and Contrast with the Biblical Portrait
 - Theological Analysis/Implications
 - Conclusion

The paper should be well researched, well written, clearly documented with footnotes, and done in accordance with **Turabian/NOBTS guidelines** (title page, footnotes, bibliography, etc.). Students should use primary sources (e.g., Qur’an, Hadith, Bible) as well as secondary literature (at least 7 secondary sources). A **first draft** is due by **midnight, April 3**. Students should be prepared to **present a synopsis of their findings on May 2 in class (online – a recording must be submitted one week prior if you won’t be online during class)**. The **final paper** is to be **uploaded to Canvas in PDF format by midnight, May 9**.

Evaluation of Grade

Grades will be determined on the basis of the NOBTS grading scale—an A for 93-100, B for 85-92, C for 77-84, D for 70-76, and F for 69 or below.

NOLA2U Flex Students

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 Canvas. 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. (See page 184 in the graduate catalog: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/academics/GraduateCatalog.pdf>).
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 through a participation grade 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.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Any student missing more than nine hours may receive an automatic grade of “F” for the course. Three tardies will count as one absence.

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. Canvas.NOBTS.com Click on the “Help” button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to Canvas@nobts.edu.
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.

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/Calendar

WEEK	CLASS DATES	ASSIGNMENTS R=Reynolds; Q=Qureshi; N=Nickel (Q#:#-#=sura:verses) CARS=Chapter/Article Reflective Summary (on Canvas)	DUE DATE
WEEK 1	Jan 17	Introduction to the Course Basic Muslim Beliefs	
WEEK 2	Jan 24	600-800, Muhammad in Mecca Quiz #1: R (Pt 1 Intro, Ch 1); Q (Pt 1)	Midnight 1/23
WEEK 3	Jan 31	N (Intro, Q1, Q2:1-121) CARS #1: “Corruption and/or Misinterpretation,” Accad	Midnight 1/30
WEEK 4	Feb 7	600-800, Muhammad in Medina Quiz #2: R (Chs 2-3, Concl Pt 1); Q (Pt 2)	Midnight 2/6
WEEK 5	Feb 14	N (Q2:122-283) CARS #2: “The Charge of Distortion,” Abdullah	Midnight 2/13
WEEK 6	Feb 21	Mardi Gras – NO CLASS	
WEEK 7	Feb 28	600-800, The Early Islamic Empire Quiz #3: R (Pt 2 Intro, Chs 4-5); Q (Pts 3-5)	Midnight 2/27
WEEK 8	Mar 7	N (Q3) CARS #3: “Quranic Window on to the NT,” Small	Midnight 3/6
WEEK 9	Mar 14	Spring Break – NO CLASS	
WEEK 10	Mar 21	800-1100/1100-1500, History of Islam Quiz #4: R (Chs 6-7, Concl Pt 2); Q (Pts 6-8)	Midnight 3/20
WEEK 11	Mar 28	N (Q4) CARS #4: “On the Presentation of Christianity in the Qur’an,” Reynolds	Midnight 3/27
WEEK 12	Apr 4	1500-Present, History of Islam Quiz #5: R (Pt 3 Intro, Ch 8, Concl); Q (Pts 9-10) Research Paper First Draft Due	Midnight 4/3
WEEK 13	Apr 11	N (Q5) CARS #5: “The Muslim Jesus,” Reynolds	Midnight 4/10
WEEK 14	Apr 25	N (“Salvation in the Quran,” p 180; “Fighting and Killing in the Quran,” p 220; “Creation in the Quran,” p 224; “Apocryphal Details in Quranic Stories,” p 299; “The Death of Jesus in the Quran,” 314; “Son of God in the Quran,” 352; “Jihad in the Quran,” p 368; “Manuscripts of the Quran,” p 407; “Allah in the Quran,” p 572	Midnight 4/24
WEEK 15	May 2	Research Paper Discussions/Presentations	
WEEK 16	May 9	Final Version of Research Paper Due Qur’an Journal Due	Midnight 5/9