ST540 CHRISTIAN ENCOUNTER WITH ISLAM

by
Elias dos Santos Medeiros
Bassam Chedid

COURSE DESIGN

Master of Divinity
Reformed Theological Seminary

Spring 2013 A.D.
Jackson, MS
REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ST540 CHRISTIAN ENCOUNTER WITH ISLAM

PROFESSORS: Dr. Medeiros and Dr. Chedid

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

This is an introduction to the history, “culture,” traditions, beliefs, and practices of Islam from a pastoral, historical, and practical perspective. Students will reflect on the ways in which Islamic faith and life have been shaped by historical and “cultural” circumstances, study the diversity of Islam both in history and in contemporary expression, and develop a deeper understanding of Islam in order to love Muslims as their neighbors and witness more effectively to them.

Our goal is to learn in order to reach. The question to keep in mind is this: What does it have to do with God’s glory, the edification (building up) of the church, and the salvation of the unconverted across the street and around the world? These “lectures” and activities have been designed to be reproduced in the context of the local churches.

FORMAT

“Lectures,” guest lecturer (Dr. Bassam Chedid, Dr. Jerry Rankin), small group interactions, seminars, video presentations, visit to a Mosque, and discussions.
TOPICS TO BE CONSIDERED

I. Historical Motivation: People, Times, and Movements

A. History of Islam
   Muslim Cultures (Visit to the “International Museum of Muslim Cultures” in Jackson, MS: http://www.muslimmuseum.org/)
   Pre-Islam Arabia
   Origins of Islam
   Islam as a Political Presence
   World-wide Expansion
   Contemporary Diversity within Islam
   Islam in Global Perspective

B. The Qur’an
   The History of the Text
   Small Group Guided Study
   Small Group Discussions
   Small Group Presentations

II. Christian Practical Motivation

   John of Damascus (ca. 645 or 676–749)
   Francis Xavier (1506-1552)
   Ramon Lull or Raymond Lully, Raymond Lull (ca. 1232–ca. 1315)
   Henry Martyn (1781-1812)
   Samuel Marinus Zwemer (1867–1952)
      http://www.ciu.edu/muslimstudies;
      http://www.stfrancismagazine.info/ja/SamuelM_Zwemer.pdf
      http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu
   Hendrik Kraemer (1888–1965)
   Kenneth Cragg (March 8, 1913—November 13, 2012)
      http://www.isrme.org/?page_id=128
   J. Christy Wilson, Jr. (1921-1999)
   Bassam Madany

B. Muslim Contemporary Initiatives
   A Common Word
   Muslims witnessing to Christians today: Case Study
III. Pastoral/Biblical Motivation: Preaching

A. The Bible and the Quran: What is the Bible All About?
B. The Bible and the Quran: The Greatest Problem
C. The Bible and the Quran: The Greatest Joy
D. The Christian Ministry and Islam: Their Goals
E. Making Disciples of All the Nations (Ummah X Laos)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance—“Classroom attendance is for the glory of God and preparation for the gospel ministry. Students therefore are expected to attend class sessions....” (RTS Catalogue).

Three reading reports—The careful reading of the assigned books and three reading reports (two pages each per book, except for the book of Acts and the Qur’an), single space, highlighting the main propositions, statements, theses, principles, etc, gathered from the reading. Check the due dates of the readings and of the written reading reports. IT IS THE STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY TO SUBMIT THESE INFORMATIONS VIA E-MAIL. DON’T WAIT FOR A REMINDER.

Participation in the classroom activities (small group study, discussion, and presentations).

Small Group study, discussion, and presentations. Choose a Facilitator to represent your group.

A “lecture” presentation in a small group setting (Sunday School, for instance) covering the three major topics of this class: pastoral/biblical, historical, and practical.

Take the initiative to talk, carry a conversation, or interview a Muslim and write one page report about your experience.

Visit an Islamic Mosque or Center on a Friday and report on the experience.
Required readings:


At least **250 pages biographical reading** of a servant of God who ministered in a Muslim context.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**Recommended Reading on Islam**
(Each of these resources offer good bibliographical material from Christian, Muslim, and secular perspectives).


**Bibliographies**

http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/ip/Bibliography.htm
http://www.library.cornell.edu/colldev/mideast/corebib.htm
http://www.1sfafrissiology.org/Expositions/MattsonABibliographyonIslam.pdf
http://www.loc.gov/law/help/bibliography-islamic-law.php
http://www.library.illinois.edu/ias/iri/persian/islam-annotated_bibliography.html
http://www.cis-ca.org/books.php
http://www.libraries.iub.edu/index.php?pageId=1000048
http://www.evangelicalresources.org/islam.shtml
http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract;jsessionid=287E4D3861216A469E-B1B2ED23D3A8C2.journals?fromPage=online&aid=2979396

**Websites in General**

(There are plentiful of websites, blogs, and so forth on this subject from all kinds of perspectives. Take a time to surf the net on this subject—bibliographies, dictionaries, encyclopedias, books, articles, journals, etc. Google it)

http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/topics/i/islam/
http://www.joshuaproject.net/ (Check it out)
http://www.lausanne.org (Check it out)
http://www.ad2000.org/ (Check it out)
http://www.perspectives.org/
http://www.uscwm.org/
http://www.wholesomewords.org/missions/bioindex.html (Mission Biographies)
http://www.aims.org/ (Mission Strategies)
http://www.worldchristiandatabase.org/wcd/default.asp (Mission Statistics)
http://www.newchurches.com/ (Church Planting)
  http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/topic/missions.html
http://www.missiology.org/
  http://www.strategicnetwork.org/ (Helps you to search 60 Christian websites)
http://www.imb.org (Biblical Basis of Missions)
http://www.ntslibrary.com/PDF%20Books.htm (Books online)

http://www.gutenberg.org/ (Research Texts online)
http://www.archive.org/ (Research Texts online)

http://www.asmweb.org (Missiology Research Sites)
http://www.bible-researcher.com/links.html
http://www.biblicalfoundations.org (Köstenberger’s webpage and blog)
http://www.gmi.org/ (Global Mapping International)
http://www.martynmission.cam.ac.uk (Henry Martyn Centre, United Kingdom)
http://www.missionstudies.org/ (International Association for Mission Studies)
http://www.religion-online.org/ (Full texts online)
http://www.mislinks.org/topics/theology.htm
http://www.christiananswers.net/evangelism/home.html
http://www.evangelicalresources.org/islam.shtml
http://www.rim.org/
http://www.al-islam.org/
# Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Christian Encounter with Islam  
Professor: Elias Medeiros  
Campus: Washington DC and Jackson  
Date: Winter and Spring 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</td>
<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scripture</td>
<td>Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural information)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural/Global</td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theology</td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<td>Sanctification</td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td>Desire for Worldview</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td>Winsomely Reformed</td>
<td>Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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