ST540 CHRISTIAN ENCOUNTER WITH ISLAM

by

Elias dos Santos Medeiros

COURSE DESIGN

Master of Divinity
Reformed Theological Seminary

Spring 2016 A.D.
Jackson, MS
REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ST540 CHRISTIAN ENCOUNTER WITH ISLAM

PROFESSORS: Dr. Medeiros and Dr. Chedid and/or Dr. Carl Ellis

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 lecturers, 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: Muhammad
   Muslim Cultures (“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://radicaltruth.net
   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

C. Christians Witnessing to Muslims
   The Insider Movement
   Practical Biblical Initiatives

III. Pastoral/Biblical/Theological Motivation: Preaching

   A. Muhammad in the light of the Scriptures: What did the Prophets, Jesus and His Apostles teach about such “prophets”
   B. Muslims’ Dreams and Revelation: How to Deal Biblically?
   C. The Bible and the Quran: What is the Bible All About?
   D. The Bible and the Quran: The Greatest Problem
   E. The Bible and the Quran: The Greatest Joy
   F. The Christian Ministry and Islam: Their Goals
   G. Making Disciples of All the Nations (Umma 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, excluding 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, if required or necessary).

   Watch and listen to Dr. Bassam Chedid’s four lectures on the Theology of Islam—“Allah’s Attributes.” The links will be posted on Selfservice/Canvas. Or
bring a USB memory stick disk and I will pass the files to you. Due date to be announced by the professor.

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.

An academic research paper on a subject selected by the student with the approval of the professor. Such academic paper should include:
- A cover page (see the example attached)
- a clear, focused thesis stated immediately in the first paragraphs
- at least, 10 relevant/good bibliographical references and scholarly references throughout the paper, including references to the Encyclopaedia of Islam ("Wikipedia" will not be considered as scholarly source or reference)
- documentation (footnotes and bibliography) should follow the Turabian format.
- historical insights on the subject,
- explicit references to the Scriptures (including references to the original biblical texts),
- explicit references to the text of the Quran
- knowledge of Reformed Trinitarian theology and practice—the sovereign and ultimate glory of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
- a winsomely Reformed ethos
- a church centered interest

Due Date: April 25.

Take the initiative to talk, carry a conversation, interview a Muslim and write one page report about your experience. Due Date: April 19.

Visit an Islamic Mosque or Center on a Friday and report on the experience. Due Date: April 18.

Required readings:

**The Holy Qur’an**, Translated by Abdullah Yusuf Ali (ISBN 9781853267826). Selected parts of the Qur’an. A copy of the Qur’an can be found online in PDF format as well. **Due Date: April 8.**


At least 250 pages biographical reading of a servant of God who ministered in a Muslim context. **Due Date: March 29.**

At least 250 pages on the history of Islam including information on pre-Islam Arabia; the origins of Islam; Islam as a religious, political and military power; world-wide Expansion of Islam; and contemporary Diversity within Islam. **Due Date: April 25.**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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


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1 Other alternative: **The Majestic Quran: An English Rendition of Its Meanings**, 4th edition, eds. Abdal Hakim Murad, Mostafa Badawi, and Uthman Hutchinson. This is a very expensive edition in print, but is available for online reading and paid download at: http://http://www.scribd.com/doc/55420649/%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%AD%D9%81-%D8%A5%D9%86%D9 %83%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B2%D9%8A-%D8%AA%D9%81%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%B1-The-Maj estic-Quran. The Majestic Quran: An English Rendition of Its Meanings can also be downloaded free from https://archive.org/details/TheMajesticQuran.


3 It could be the selection of different articles on each topic.


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**Dr. James Anderson, professor at RTS Charlotte, NC, recommends the following resources as well:**

**A. General Introductions**


**B. Reference Works**


**C. Muhammad and the Qur’an**

1. Alfred Guillaume, trans., *The Life of Muhammad: A Translation of Ibn Ishaq’s Sirat Rasul Allah* (Oxford University Press, 1967). [Ibn Ishaq’s (d. 768) historical account is one of the earliest and most respected.]


5. Gabriel Said Reynolds, *The Emergence of Islam: Classical Traditions in Contemporary Perspective* (Fortress Press, 2012). [A scholarly introduction to the history of Muhammad, his successors, and the Qur’an; raises critical questions about the traditional Muslim narratives.]


### D. Christian Engagement with Islam


2. Laurie Fortunak Nichols and Gary R. Corwin, eds., *Envisioning Effective Ministry: Evangelism in a Muslim Context* (EMIS, 2010). [A very helpful collection of short articles from the *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* addressing current challenges and debates in Muslim evangelism, church planting, and contextualization.]


4. Timothy George, *Is the Father of Jesus the God of Muhammad* (Zondervan, 2002). [George gives an overview of Islam and a nuanced, well-informed answer to the title question, noting the irreconcilable differences between Christianity and Islam.]

5. Nabeel T. Jabbour, *The Crescent Through the Eyes of the Cross: Insights from an Arab Christian* (NavPress, 2008). [A helpful resource for understanding the Muslim mindset with respect to Christianity and the West. Also provides invaluable insights on how to evangelize Muslims. Jabbour is an ordained minister in the PCA and served on the Study Committee on Insider Movements.]


8. Phil Parshall, *The Cross and the Crescent: Understanding the Muslim Heart and Mind* (InterVarsity Press, 2002). [Useful mainly for understanding how Muslims view the world and cope with the challenges of life; very conversational and anecdotal in style.]


**E. Other Resources**

1. John L. Esposito and Dalia Mogahed, *Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think* (Gallup Press, 2007). [Intended as an empirically researched corrective to popular assumptions about what Muslims believe. From the blurb: “Gallup conducted tens of thousands of interviews with residents of more than 35 nations that are predominantly Muslim or have significant Muslim populations.” Illuminating at points, but the book contains more interpretation than actual hard data and the authors clearly have an agenda.]

3. Samuel P. Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* (Simon & Schuster, 1996). [An influential and controversial work on international affairs. Huntington argues that the post-Cold War world will be divided mainly according to cultural/religious identities, resulting in a major fault-line between the West and the Rest (esp. the Muslim world).]

4. Bernard Lewis, *What Went Wrong? The Clash Between Islam and Modernity in the Middle East* (Oxford University Press, 2002). [Lewis charts the rise and fall of Islam over the centuries, with a view to explaining present-day Muslim bewilderment and frustration at the decline of Islamic power.]

5. Nuh Ha Mim Keller, trans., *Al-Maqasid: Nawawi’s Manual of Islam* (Amana Publications, rev. ed., 2002). [Nawawi was a 13th-century Islamic legal scholar. This relatively short work gives fascinating insight into what it means to be a “good Muslim” and how exactly the “Five Pillars of Islam” should be practiced.]


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**Bibliographies Online**

http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/ip/Bibliography.htm
http://www.library.cornell.edu/colldev/mideast/corebib.htm
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?jid=287E4D3861216A469EB1B2ED23D3A8C2.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
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.missionaryetexts.org/

http://www.evangelicalresources.org/islam.shtml
http://www.rim.org/
http://answeringislam.org/
http://www.bible.ca/islam/library/Zwemer/index.htm
http://radicaltruth.net/ (Good Resources to download, inclusive Zwemer sources)
http://barnabasaid.org/US/Home/

http://www.al-islam.org/
http://www.iqrasense.com/
http://www.searchtruth.com/
http://www.quranexplorer.com/
http://www.quranexplorer.com/Quran/
http://www.dawahiseasy.com/
http://www.dawahiseasy.com/category/street-dawah-uncut/
http://www.dawahiseasy.com/category/dawah-training/
http://www.islamreligion.com/
## Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** Christian Encounter with Islam  
**Professor:** Elias Medeiros  
**Campus:** Jackson  
**Date:** Spring 2016

### MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>The research paper enables students to articulate a responsible understanding of the theological, historical, cultural, and global realities of Islam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Lectures and reading assignments enable students to appreciate and articulate a scriptural response to Islam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</th>
<th>Strong</th>
<th>The research paper enables students to articulate a responsible understanding of the theological, historical, cultural, and global realities of Islam.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<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>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scripture</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Lectures and reading assignments enable students to appreciate and articulate a scriptural response to Islam.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<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/global perspectives.)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reformed Theology</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Study of the Reformed tradition insofar as it informs a response to other</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the</td>
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<tr>
<td>Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>religions.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td><strong>Moderate</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Contributes to the shaping of the Christian mind and heart, and thus to the love of God and neighbor.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td><strong>Strong</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Lectures, reading assignments, research paper will contribute to an integrated Christian view of Islam.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
<td><strong>Strong</strong></td>
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<tr>
<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>Promotes a charitable (i.e., wise, fair, and discerningly critical) approach to engaging Islam.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td><strong>Strong</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Promotes a responsible Christian engagement with Islam, one of the major cultural institutions that is shaping public discourse today.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>