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MW 720 Mission to Muslim Peoples

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MW 720 -- Mission to Muslim Peoples
Asbury Theological Seminary
Fall 2005
Instructor: Dr. Dale F Walker

Tuesdays 8:00-10:45

Class Syllabus

The course **Mission to Muslim Peoples** assumes a background of knowledge about Islam taught in World Religions courses, and builds on this to give deeper understanding to the backgrounds, history, and living reality of Islam in the contemporary world. Our focus will be the Christian-Muslim interaction in the Church's fulfilling of the apostolic call for witness to Muslim peoples. The question of contextualization of the Gospel message for Muslim peoples will be of primary concern throughout the course.

Goals: Through this course, students will:

1. deepen their knowledge of Islam as a living religion
2. see some of the variety of Islam in history and in the contemporary world.
3. assess the contacts between Christians and Muslims through history.
4. gain understanding of the contemporary mission to Muslim peoples.
5. explore new ways of witness to Muslims.
6. be challenged to be part of God's mission today.

Tentative schedule of classes:

| | | |
|---------|---|--|
| Sept 6 | Pretest, introduction to the course The question of contextualization | Rdg: Miller, ch 1-2 Handout articles |
| Sept 13 | A little Arabic The universal practices of Islam | Rdg: Miller, ch 3-4 Miller, ch 11, 14 |
| Sept 20 | Muhammad [reading report, 1] Muhammad (Paper #1 due) | Rdg: Miller, ch 5,6,7 Nasr, ch 1-4 |
| Sept 27 | Muhammad The Qur'an | Rdg: Nasr, ch 5-8 Miller, ch 8 |
| Oct 4 | The Qur'an [reading report, 2] Early History of Islam (Paper #2 due) (Beginning of Ramadan) | Rdg: Miller, 10, 12 Miller, ch 15; Goddard, ch 1 |
| Oct 11 | Hadith and Tradition Development of Islamic Civilization | Rdg: Miller, 9,13; Goddard, ch 2 Miller, ch 16; Goddard, ch 3 |
| Oct 18 | Kingdom Conference [reading report, 3] | Rdg: Miller, ch 17 Miller, ch 18 |
| Oct 25 | Sufism Modern "Islamism" | Rdg: Goddard, ch 4, 5 Goddard, ch 6, 7 |
| Nov 1 | Islam in "the West" [reading report, 4] Muslim-Christian Interaction (Paper #3 due) | Rdg: Goddard, ch 8 Accad |

Nov 2-3 (Id al-Fitr)

Nov 8 Muslim-Christian Interaction Rdg: Moucarry, Intro and part 1
Christian and Islamic apologetics

Nov 15 Christian and Islamic apologetics [rdg report, 5] Rdg: Moucarry, part 2.
Back to Contextualization and Mission (Paper #4 due)

Nov 21-25 Reading Week / Thanksgiving Rdg: Moucarry, part 3.

Nov 29 Folk Islam [reading report 6] Rdg: Moucarry, part 4.
The political view

Dec 6 Mission in the 21st Century Rdg: Moucarry, part 5.
Final reports and summary (Paper #5 due)

Dec 13 [Reading report, 7]

Dec 13-16 Final Exam

Class attendance and full participation by each class member is expected. At least some student papers will be read and discussed in class.

Written Assignments:

1. Choose a belief or practice in Islam. Write about this as a presentation you might give to a church study group (i.e. no knowledge or experience of Islam is assumed). Describe this belief or practice in an objective way; then discuss the corresponding Christian belief or practice; give a reasoned evaluation (Can we learn from them? Can they learn from us? How can spiritual life be deepened through this understanding?). Approx 4-5 pages.
2. Choose a character or event in Muslim history. This may be from Muhammad's lifetime, or later, or even from recent events. Use a variety of sources to give an understanding of what was going on and his/her/its significance for the Muslim movement as a whole. Approx 4-5 pages.
3. Choose a person from mission history about whom sources and discussion are available. Possible choices *inter alia* would be: Ramon Lull, Francis of Assisi, Henry Martyn, K G Pfander, Temple Gairdner, Samuel Zwemer, Louis Massignon. More contemporary names might be Kenneth Cragg and Phil Parshall. Using various sources including biographies and samples of their writing, report on the life and times of the person, his views of Islam, and his significance in the history of mission to Muslim peoples. Approx 4-5 pages.
4. Choose a country, or area/ethnic group within a large country, with a significant Muslim population. Collect information from library resources, internet, and interviews about this country, the manifestations of Islam in it, the history of the Christian church and its mission to Muslims, and the current situation of the church in that culture. Approx 8-10 pages.
5. Choose a church or mission organization which ministers directly to Muslim peoples. Possible choices are: Arab World Ministries, Frontiers, OMS, Pioneers, as well as church bodies from whom information can be obtained. Using library resources, internet, and interviews, write a presentation about this ministry: its history, focus, view of Islam, policies, training, etc. This research can be combined with Paper #4, and possibly with Paper #3. Plan your research and carry it out through the whole semester. The paper should be approx. 8-10 pages.

Recommended Books:

The Qur'an: Three editions are readily available:

The Koran Interpreted. [trans.] Arthur J Arberry. NY: Macmillan, 1967.

(Probably the best translation available, though not usually acceptable to Muslims)

The Meaning of the Glorious Koran. [trans] Marmaduke Pickthall. NY: NAL, 1953.

(The translation is rather wooden, but it is acceptable to Muslims, and its smaller size makes it easier to carry around)

The Holy Qur'an. [trans] A Yusuf Ali. Brentwood MD: Amana, 1983.

(The translation is literal; the commentary is not often very enlightening, but the translation is printed with the Arabic text, and the edition is acceptable to Muslims. If you have learned the Arabic alphabet with a start on the language, you can begin to pick out significant words of the text)

Books assigned for reading during the semester:

Accad, Fouad Elias. *Building Bridges: Christianity and Islam.*

Colorado Springs: Navpress, 1977.

Goddard, Hugh. *A History of Christian-Muslim Relations.*

Chicago: New Amsterdam, 2000.

Miller, Roland E, *Muslim Friends: Their Faith and Feeling.*

St Louis: Concordia, 1995.

Moucarry, Chawkat, *The Prophet and the Messiah.*

Downers Grove: IVP, 2001.

Nasr, Seyyed Hossein, *Islam: Religion, History and Civilization*

New York: Harper, 2003

International Journal of Frontier Missions

(Five issues deal with Islam, and give a wide range of recent evangelical thinking on mission to Muslim peoples. These special issues will be on reserve in the library. Many of the articles should be read through the semester)

The World of Islam. CD-Rom. Colorado Springs: GMI, 2000

(Everyone is encouraged to have this resource. Besides some 40 books and a number of other articles, several course outlines are included. A list of the included books follows. Call numbers are given for those which are also available in the ATS library)

BV2625 Abdul-Haqq, Abdiyah Akbar, *Sharing Your Faith with a Muslim.*

Minneapolis: Bethany, 1980.

BV2625 Addison, James Thayer, *The Christian Approach to the Moslem: A historical study.*

NY: Columbia UP, 1942.

Anderson, Norman. *Islam in the Modern World: A Christian Perspective.*

Leicester: IVP, 1990

BP130 Bell, Richard (rev/ed W M Watt). *Introduction to the Qur'an.*

Edinburgh: UP, 1970

BP161.2 Braswell, George W. *Islam: Its Prophet, Peoples, Politics and Power.*

Nashville: Broadman, 1996

Campbell, William F. *The Qur'an and the Bible in the Light of History and Science.*

Upper Darby: Middle East Resources, 1986

BP172 Chapman, Colin. *Cross and Crescent: Responding to the Challenge of Islam.*

Leicester, IVP, 1995

BP172 Dretke, James P. *A Christian Approach to Muslims: Reflections from West Africa.*

Pasadena: Wm Carey, 1979.

Gilchrist, John. *The Christian Witness to the Muslim.*

South Africa, 1988.

- Gilchrist, John. *Origins and Sources of the Gospel of Barnabas*.
np: Jesus to the Muslims, 1979.
- Gilchrist, John. *The Qur'an: The Scripture of Islam*.
np: Muslim Evangelicalism Resource Centre, 1995.
- BP172 Goldsmith, Martin. *Islam and Christian Witness: Sharing your faith with Muslims*.
Carlisle: Paternoster OM, 1991.
Institute for the Study of Islam and Christianity. *Survey of Islam*. 2000.
- BP172.3 Jones, L Bevan. *Christianity Explained to Muslims: A manual for Christian Workers*.
Calcutta: YMCA, 1938.
- BP172 Kateregga, Badru D & Shenk, David W. *A Muslim and a Christian in Dialogue*.
Scottsdale: Herald, 1997.
- BV2625 Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization. *Ministry in Islamic Contexts*
Oslo: LCWE, 1996.
- BV2625 Livingstone, Greg. *Planting Churches in Muslim Cities: A team approach*.
Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.
Malek, Sobhi. *Islam: Challenge and Mandate*. 2000
- BP172 Martinson, Paul Varo [ed]. *Islam: An introduction for Christians*.
Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1994 [German, 1990]
- BV2625 Matheny, Tim. *Reaching the Arabs: A felt-need approach*.
Pasadena: Wm Carey, 1981
- BV2625 McCurry, Don [ed]. *The Gospel and Islam: A compendium* [abridged edition]
Monrovia: MARC, 1979.
- BV2625 Musk, Bill. *The Unseen Face of Islam: Sharing the Gospel with Ordinary Muslims*.
Crowborough: Monarch, 1989.
- BP172 Nazir-Ali, Michael. *Frontiers in Muslim-Christian Encounter*.
Oxford: Regnum, 1987
- BP161.2 Nazir-Ali, Michael. *Islam: A Christian Perspective*.
Philadelphia: Westminster, 1983.
Nehls, Gerhard, *Christians Answer Muslims*, 1988.
Nehls, Gerhard, *Christians Ask Muslims*, 1988
- BP172 Parshall, Phil. *Beyond the Mosque: Christians Within Muslim Community*
Grand Rapids: Baker, 1985.
- BP172 Parshall, Phil. *The Cross and the Crescent: Understanding the Muslim Mind and Heart*.
Wheaton: Tyndale, 1989.
- BP135 Parshall, Phil. *Inside the Community: Understanding Muslims Through Their Traditions*.
Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994
- BV2625 Parshall, Phil. *New Paths in Muslim Evangelism: Evangelical Approaches to Contextualization*.
Grand Rapids: Baker, 1980
- BV2625 Saal, William. *Reaching Muslims for Christ: A handbook for Christian outreach among Muslims*
Chicago: Moody, 1991
- BP189.2 Schimmel, Annemarie. *Mystical Dimensions of Islam*.
Chapel Hill: U No Carolina, 1975.
- BP139 Stanton, H U Weitbrecht. *The Teaching of the Qur'an, with an account of its growth and a subject index*. London: SPCK, 1919.
Tisdall, W St Clair, *Christian Reply to Muslim Objections*.
Villach: Light of Life, 1980 [1904].
- BP173 Torrey, Charle Cutler. *The Jewish Foundation of Islam*.
np: Jewish Inst of Religion, 1933.
- BV2625 VanderWerff, Lyle L. *Christian Mission to Muslims: The Record: Anglican and Reformed Approaches to India and the Near East, 1800-1938*. Pasadena: Wm Carey, 1977.
Woodberry, J Dudley. *Dimensions of Witness Among Muslims*.
Seoul: Chongshin Univ, 1997.
- BV2625 Woodberry, J Dudley [ed]. *Muslims and Christians on the Emmaus Road*.
Pasadena: Zwemer Institute, 1989
- BP134 Zwemer, Samuel M. *The Moslem Christ: An essay on the life, character, and teachings of Jesus Christ according to the Koran and orthodox traditions*. NY: Am Tract Society, 1912

Readings:

Students are expected to read widely throughout the semester. The goal should be a minimum of 1500 pages, or approximately 110 pages per week. Some readings will be assigned; others will be chosen by the student, according to each one's interests and needs, e.g. research for the papers. Browse in the library stacks, in the following areas:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| B 741-753 | Islamic philosophy |
| BP 1-399 | Islam, in general |
| BV 2625-2626 | Missions to Muslims |
| DS 35+ | Historical, geographical, and political aspects |
| HQ 1170 | Women in Islam |
| PJ 6000+ | Arabic language and literature |

Don't neglect the periodicals. Glance through, at least, *Islamic Horizons*, a general magazine for the Muslim public in the U.S.

The Qur'an: Read what you can of the Qur'an. Some sections will be assigned, or read in class; bring your copy to each class session. You will *not* be required to read the whole book during the course of the semester. Everyone in ministry to Muslims, however, should be able to say, "I've read it."

Reading reports:

Keep a written account of all your readings: articles, and chapters/sections of books. This should include author/title/pages, a short statement of what the reading is about, the purpose/goal of the author, your evaluation of the piece, and any questions that the reading rouses in your mind.

This cumulative listing should be turned in every other Tuesday.

Internet:

Browse the web for sites relevant to our subject. Articles read here can be counted towards the reading goal, and should be fully cited according to standard formats.

Begin with: www.answering-islam.org and
www.debate.org.uk

Look into some Muslim-sponsored sites also.

Videos: More and more videos are available which portray aspects of Islam. A whole series of videos from the Islamic Information Service will be available on overnight reserve. (Watching and taking notes on videos counts for the "reading reports." (One hour = 20 pages).

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| Grading: | Paper 1 | 10% | | |
| | Paper 2 | 10% | Final | 10% |
| | Paper 3 | 10% | Reading reports | 15% |
| | Paper 4 | 15% | Class participation | 15% |
| | Paper 5 | 15% | | |