



**WM 645 *Islam and the Gospel* (3)
Spring Festival of Learning 2005
Instructor: Gordon Nickel**

Contacting the Instructor

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Course Description

The religion of Islam has caught the attention of many North Americans as more and more Muslims move 'next door,' and especially since the Persian Gulf War of 1991. And yet, in spite of much public talk about Islam, the religion remains relatively unknown. Many Christians are at a loss as to how to respond to Muslims and their faith. This course is designed to instill in Christians a measure of confidence about the beliefs and practices of Muslims. For more than 1200 years, Islam has raised some very difficult challenges to Christian faith. The course will examine the most important challenges, especially to the person and work of Jesus Christ, and propose ways for Christians to answer Muslims helpfully. The approach of the course is to gain an accurate and fair knowledge of Islam from its foundational documents, to take a realistic view of current Muslim faith and practice, and to respond to Muslim claims with intelligence and clarity.

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Tell the story of the origins and development of Islam as Muslims understand it.
- Demonstrate the application of a scholarly perspective to the Muslim tradition.
- Empathize with members of the Muslim *umma* who feel the power and attraction of Islam.
- Commit to the importance and necessity of the Christian apostolate to Islam.
- Articulate a Christian theological response to the main beliefs and doctrines of Muslims.
- Make a start at bearing witness to Jesus among Muslim friends with confidence and gentleness.
- Respond to Muslim denials of gospel truths in effective, creative and peaceable ways.
- Develop a Christology in response to Muslim denials of Christ which will help Muslim-background believers give a reason for their faith.
- Indicate an ecclesiology which will serve Muslim-background believers as they develop their own community based on New Testament patterns.

Class Times:

Monday, May 2 through Friday, May 6, 2005	8:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m., 1:00-4:30 p.m. (with chapel and rest breaks)
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Required Texts

Cragg, Kenneth. *Jesus and the Muslim: An exploration*. Oxford: Oneworld, 1999.
Rippin, Andrew. *Muslims: Their Beliefs and Practices*. Second Edition. London:
Routledge, 2001.

Shenk, David W. *Journeys of the Muslim Nation and the Christian Church:
Exploring the mission of two communities*. Waterloo, ON: Herald Press, 2003.

Course Schedule

Date	Topics	Readings, Assignments
Mon May 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction: Arabia before Islam • The Qur'an • How can I answer the accusation of 'corruption?' • The Prophet of Islam 	Rippin chs. 1-3 Shenk chs. 1, 2, 5, 6
Tues May 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Muslim Conquest • Muslim Theology • Do Muslims and Christians worship the same God? • Islamic Law 	Rippin chs. 4-6 Shenk chs. 7, 9, 12 Cragg ch. 5
Wed May 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pillars of Ritual Practice • The Love of God in the Qur'an and the Gospel • Peaceable Witness Among Muslims 	<u>Quiz on Rippin chs. 1-4</u> Rippin ch. 7 Shenk chs. 11, 13
Thurs May 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Death and Resurrection of Jesus • Does Islam offer a way of salvation? • Shi 'a and Sufi Islam • Discipling New Believers 	Rippin chs. 8, 9 Shenk ch. 8 Cragg ch. 6
Fri May 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Divinity of Jesus • Islam in the Modern World • Is Islam a religion of war or a religion of peace? • Gathering Believers Together 	<u>Quiz on Rippin chs. 5-7</u> Shenk ch. 10 Cragg ch. 7
Mon July 4	<u>Reading log</u> and <u>research paper</u> are due at the 6 th floor AUC reception desk	

Course Requirements

Note on reading in advance of the course: Read ahead in the Rippin and Shenk texts so that you are ready for the quizzes and assignments (see schedule).

1. Attend the full five days of classes of the course.
2. Complete the readings in Andrew Rippin, *Muslims: Their Beliefs and Practices*, according to the course schedule, prior to coming to each day. Your comprehension of these readings will be tested by **two in-class quizzes on May 4 & 6**.
3. Read the chapters in David W. Shenk, *Journeys of the Muslim Nation and the Christian Church*, according to the course schedule, before coming to each day. Answer the questions at the end of each chapter (roughly 300 words total for each chapter). Set of answers for 10 chapters **due May 13**.
4. *Reading log on 500 pages of extra reading* of articles of your choice from mission journals and collections of articles related to the theme of Christian theological response to the claims of Islam. Read widely to expand your knowledge of a range of perspectives. *Begin with the books marked with an asterisk (* - on reserve in the Archibald-Thompson library) and the articles listed in the course bibliography*. In books of a single author, read selected chapters only (maximum three). *Note:* You can coordinate this assignment with assignment #5 by choosing articles which feed into your topic research. For each article or chapter, give the exact bibliographical information; the reason you chose the article; a brief description of content; and a brief personal response (around 100 words for each article). **Due July 4**.
5. *Research paper*. First choose a topic in consultation with the professor by May 6. Choose a topic which responds to a major theological challenge of Islam or focuses on an aspect of witness among Muslims.
 - a. **Due May 20:** Strong thesis paragraph for your topic; one-page outline of the contents of the paper; and an extensive resource list
 - b. **Due July 4:** Completed paper of 12-15 pages (double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt.). The paper will be graded on the basis of the clarity and force of your argument (30%); the quality of your research (30%); the organization of your materials (20%); and your writing style and mechanics (20%).
6. *Final exam* on the basis of Kenneth Cragg's *Jesus and the Muslim*. (Chapters 5-7 and 11, 108 pages). Be prepared to explain Cragg's arguments about the death of Jesus, the divinity of Jesus, and the issue of violence and the right way to bring in 'God's way.' **Due June 3**.

NOTE: Assignments must be submitted on the due date. Assignments submitted after the due date will not be accepted.

Course Grade

15%	Quizzes on Rippin's <i>Muslims</i>
15%	Answers to questions in Shenk's <i>Journeys</i>
20%	Reading log on 500 extra pages
30%	Research paper (including 5% for preliminary proposal)
20%	Final exam on Cragg's <i>Jesus and the Muslim</i>

Important Notes

The format guide required for this course is: *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, by Kate L. Turabian (6th Edition). This format must be used for all course assignments. Just to be clear: the traditional Notes method of Turabian is required rather than the citation Reference List method (which can also be found in the Turabian manual). Buy the book to become familiar with format standards, or access the format basics conveniently online at www.libs.uga.edu/ref/turabian.html (many other sites).

Students may not turn in coursework after the date of the scheduled final examination for the course unless they have received permission for a "Course Extension." Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty Policy.

The seminary maintains a zero tolerance policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the seminary. Even unintentional plagiarism is to be avoided at all costs. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar and the student handbook that deal with plagiarism, academic dishonesty (cheating), and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.

Add/Drop Policy

Students may withdraw from this class and receive a full refund only prior to the second class session (i.e., before 1:00 pm on Monday). No tuition refund will be issued after this deadline.

Students may voluntarily withdraw or change their registration from credit to audit, without academic penalty, only prior to completing 70% of the course (i.e., before 1:00 pm on Thursday). Students who withdraw from a course after this deadline will receive a grade of "F."

All Registration changes must be made through the Registrar's Office by completing a Registration Revision Form. Forms are available in the Registrar's Office or can be downloaded from www.auc-nuc.ca.

All coursework due after the end of modular classes is to be marked clearly with your name and student number, as well as the full name and code of your particular course, and delivered to the following address:

Alliance University College and Nazarene University College
Attn: Spring Module – Coursework Submission
630, 833 4th Avenue SW
Calgary AB T2P 3T5

The CTS Dean's Office will retain your coursework until the assignment deadline then forward it to your instructor.

Please note: AUC- NUC cannot assume responsibility for papers lost in the mail. Students are therefore strongly advised to retain a photocopy (or backup copy) of all work submitted.

The procedure for returning assignments to students must be described in the syllabus as follows:

Students who will be on-campus at the time that graded assignments are returned will have those assignments delivered in class or via the on-campus mail system if these have student mail box numbers on the assignment.

Students without a mailbox who wish to receive their assignments/exams back must submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope (of sufficient size and postage) to the Receptionist.

Papers that are unclaimed and/or undeliverable will be held for one year from the due date, and then destroyed.

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