

Providence Theological Seminary
GS5116 Islam and Current Events

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Dates: May 2-6, 2011

Presuppositions and Assumptions:

The assumptions will be covered in class.

Course Description:

With approximately 1.6 billion Muslims in the world today, it is predicted that in a few years Muslims will become a quarter of world's population. This course introduces basic information about Islam along with various approaches and implications for Christian Witness. It also examines the issues behind the anger and agenda of militant Islam, and some possible responses. In addition it carefully examines the war that is being waged for the minds and hearts of Muslims, who are being pulled in two opposing directions: on the one hand modernity and open mindedness, and on the other hand, Islamic Fundamentalism and/or fanaticism. The Israel/Palestine conflict and other current events are also be explored.

Course Objectives:

1. A review of the basics: life of Muhammad, Doctrines, Folk Islam, the Qur'an according to Muslim and non-Muslim historians.
2. Understand and have a grasp of the war which is waging for the hearts and minds of Muslims today. In Islam there is no separation between religion and state. Islam is *deen wa dawla* (Religion and State). Geopolitics is an integral part of Islam.
3. Understand the roots of Islamic Fundamentalism and the catalysts that prompted events that led up to 9/11.
4. Identify and describe the founders of Islamic fundamentalism and their organizations.
5. Understand liberal Islam and its impact on Islam today.
6. Grasp how the history of Muslim-Christian encounter shapes current relations.
7. Explicate the problem of Israel and Palestine by getting acquainted with the "other side of the coin" perspective.
8. Consider the various options in our witness to Muslims, the Biblical bases and the issues involved.
9. Consider the Egyptian Revolution of Jan 25, 2011 and the current events in the various countries of the Arab World.

We will work on those objectives in the context of the following values: embracing diversity, encouraging and stimulating critical thinking and developing a passion for the ministry.

Course Paper Required Only of Graduate Students

Write about 3,000 words course paper on this topic: "In the war for the hearts and minds of Muslims around the world what would it take to empower the moderates and open

mindful, and marginalize the fanatics in the Muslim world? Who are the main players and what can each do?"

There is the “silent majority” or the undecided Muslims in the Muslim world. They are in the middle and they might be about 70% of the 1.6 billion Muslims in the world. On the one side you have the moderates and the open minded people and they might be about 10%. On the other side there are the fundamentalists, and there are the fanatics, and they might be about 20%. The militant Muslims among them are a fraction of 1%. The war is for the hearts and minds of the undecided, the 70%, and the battles are Palestine, Afghanistan and other places in the world. Christendom or the West might win a battle and end up losing the war. The battle Christendom might win could be strong governments in Iraq and Afghanistan and almost an end to the occupation of those countries. The war that Christendom might lose is an increase of hatred to Christendom and to the Gospel, and an increase of Islamic Fundamentalism and fanaticism in the Muslim world. If we go in the direction of wanting to win battles and end up losing the war, then what will happen if Pakistan, who possesses nuclear power, moves more and more towards fundamentalism? What about Iran? What about Saudi Arabia? What about Egypt and the Muslim Brotherhood? The course paper has to do with how to win the war. The required readings are essential for addressing the topic of the paper. The recommended articles are another valuable source for our course paper.

Textbooks

Required Reading List of Graduate Students:

Chapman, Colin. *Whose Promised Land?* Baker Books. ISBN 0-8010-6441-4 (pbk)

Qutb, Sayyid: **Milestones** ISBN 0-911119-42-6

Carter, Jimmy. **Palestine Peace Not Apartheid**. Simon and Schuster. 2006. ISBN 13:978-0-7432-8502-5 ISBN-10:0-7432-8502

Jabour, Nabeel. *The Rumbling Volcano*. Islamic Fundamentalism in Egypt. Pasadena CA: Mandate Press, ISBN 0-87808-241-7. Available from William Carey Library (800-647-7466; www.wclbooks.com)

Required Reading List for Undergraduate Students:

Carter, Jimmy. **Palestine 1. Peace Not Apartheid**. Simon and Schuster. 2006. ISBN 13:978-0-7432-8502-5 ISBN-10:0-7432-8502

Jabour, Nabeel. *The Rumbling Volcano*. Islamic Fundamentalism in Egypt. Pasadena CA: Mandate Press, ISBN 0-87808-241-7. Available from William Carey Library (800-647-7466; www.wclbooks.com)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

1. Please **do not read** Chapman’s book *Whose Promised Land* and Carter’s book *Palestine Peace and not Apartheid*, **until after you take the class**. The same

- applies to Jabbour's book *The Crescent Through The Eyes of the Cross*, which is not a required reading.
2. You **can read before you come to class** Qutb's *Milestones* and Jabbour's *The Rumbling Volcano*.

Recommended Reading and Resources List:

The references with asterisks ** are the priority readings. The more the asterisks the more important the resource.

- **1. www.nabeeljabbour.com. Links to websites.
2. Shakir, M.H. *The Qur'an*. New York: Tahrike Tarsile Qur'an Inc. ISBN 0940368188, English only translation. Available from www.amazon.com
OR: Ali, A. Yusuf. *The Holy Quran*.
OR: Irving, Thomas. *The Noble Qur'an*. Amana Books. ISBN 0-915597-51-10.
- *3. *Whose Holy City?* Published by Baker and the ISBN 0-8010-6556-9.
4. Kincaid, Jack. *Between Two Fires*, the untold story of Palestinian Christians. ISBN 0-9725258-0-7, Banner Communications Inc. 352-336-1040
5. Findley, Paul. *They Dare to Speak Out*. Hill Books. ISBN 1-55652-073-5
- *6. Chacour, Elias. *Blood Brothers*. Chosen Books. ISBN 0-8007-9321-8
7. Lewis, Bernard. *What Went Wrong?* Oxford University Press 2002. ISBN 0-19-514420-1
8. Mallouhi, Christine. *Waging Peace on Islam*. William Carey Library; (800) 647-7466; www.WCLBooks.com Paperback – 348 pages. ISBN 1 85424 502 3.
- *9. Hoskins, Dr. Edward J. *A Muslim's Heart: What Every Christian Needs to Know to Share Christ with Muslims*. ISBN 0-9672480-6-X Navpress (1-888-547-9635; www.dawsonmedia.com).
- *10. Chapman, Colin. *Cross and Crescent*. Leicester, England: Inter-Varsity Press of England, 1995 ISBN 0-85110-992-6. Available from IVP in Chicago at 800-843-9487.
- *11. Gilchrist, John. *The Qur'an, The Scripture of Islam*. South Africa: Mercsa, ISBN 0-9583905-2-5. <http://answering-islam.org.uk/Gilchrist/#qbs>
- *12. Gilchrist, John. *Muhammad The Prophet of Islam*. South Africa: Mercsa, ISBN 0-9583905-1-7 <http://answering-islam.org.uk/Gilchrist/Muhammad/index.html>
13. Musk, Bill. *The Unseen Face of Islam*. London: MARC: Evangelical Missionary Alliance, 1989.
14. Muller, Roland. *Honor and Shame: Unlocking the Door*. ISBN 0-7388-4316-4.
15. *The Holy Injil: Matthew*. International Bible Society, Colorado Springs, (719) 488-9200. User-friendly Gospel of Matthew for Muslims.
16. Johnstone, Patrick. *Operation World*. Zondervan Publishing House.
- *17. Brother Andrew and Al Janssen. *Light Force, A stirring account of the church caught in the Middle East crossfire*. ISBN 0-8007-1872-0.
- *18. Kurzman, Charles. *Liberal Islam*. Oxford University Press 1998. ISBN 0-19-511622-4
- ** 19. Jabbour, Nabeel. *Unshackled and Growing: Muslims and Christians on The Journey to Freedom*. Dawson Media (1-888-547-9635; www.dawsonmedia.com). ISBN 978-0-9729023-2-5.

- **20. Khalidi, Rashid. *Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints and America's Perilous Path in the Middle East*. Beacon. ISBN0-8070-0235-6.
- **21. Everest, Larry. *Oil, Power and Empire, Iraq and the US Global Agenda*. CC Common Courage Press. ISBN 1-56751-246-1.
- **22. Jeschke, Marlin. *Rethinking Holy Land. A Study in Salvation Geography*. Herald Press. ISBN 0-8361-9317-2.
- **23. Qutb, Sayyid: *Milestones*, ISBN 0-911119-42-6
- ** 24. Jabbour, Nabeel. *The Crescent Through the Eyes of The Cross*. Navpress.
- ** 25. Medearis, Carl. *Muslims, Christians and Jesus*. Bethany House. 2008. ISBN978-0-7642-0567-5
- ** 26. Bailey, Kenneth. *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes*. IVP 2008. ISBN 978-0-8308-2568-4.

Requirements and Grading

This course is a three-credit course. There will be 30 hours of class plus 90 hours of work out of class. What is required of those of you who are taking the course for credit is to do the following:

1. Attend the 30 hours of class and write a one page daily response at the end of each day sharing insights gained and issues you are struggling with. This is a requirement of all the students including those taking the course as a seminar. (30% of the grade for the Graduate students and 45% of the grade for the undergraduate students).
2. For both the Graduate and Undergraduate students: read the required books and write about 700 words on each of the books, critiquing them and evaluating them regarding strengths and weaknesses. As you write your book reports:
 1. Start with a very brief summary of the book.
 2. Evaluate the book. How do you agree and disagree with the author.
 3. What lessons can be learned from this book?
 4. How did this book impact your thinking, your convictions and your life?

Start each book report with a sentence describing exactly how much you read and how much you skimmed. Examples: *"I have read the book from cover to cover. Or I have read the first 75 pages and skimmed the rest of the book."* **(40% of the grade for the Graduate students and 55% of the grad for the Undergraduate students). Due no later than July 31.**

3. For the Graduate students only, write a 3000 words term paper on the required topic. **(30% of the grade).**

Please send all the requirements as word document attachments **in one email** to Dr. Jabbour: nabeel@nabeeljabbour.com and nabeel@nabeeljabbour.net. Do not assume that Dr. Jabbour received the book reports and the course paper unless you hear from him that he did receive them.

Summary

For Graduate Students:

1. Daily attendance and daily responses. 30% of the grade.
 2. Thorough reading of the four required books along with the book reports on each of the books. 40% of the grade.
 3. Course paper on the required topic. 30% of the grade.
- Assignments are due by July 31.*

For the Undergraduate Students:

1. Daily attendance and daily responses. 45% of the grade.
2. Thorough reading of the two required books along with the book reports on each of the books. 55% of the grade.

For the students who are taking the course as a Seminar:

1. Attend all the class sessions.
- 2, Write daily responses.

NOTE: The grades for this course will be available September 2, 2011.