

Please Note: This is last year's syllabus, and is offered for informational purposes only. Once an updated syllabus has been supplied, it will be posted here.

Engaging Islam in the 21st Century

WYT2637HF

Instructor: The Rt. Rev. Josiah Idowu-Fearon, Ph.D.

Schedule: Saturday, 9:00am – 3:00pm

Schedule Notes: Saturdays, April 11 - 25, plus three trips, TBC.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is for Christian theology students who wish to have a basic knowledge of the religion of Islam. Two basic questions are attempted in the course: "What is Islam?" and how do I engage the Muslim?". These two questions will underline the lectures and discussions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is intended to assist you in reaching the following goals:

- To have a basic knowledge of the religion of Islam so as to be able to engage a Muslim theologically.
- To give the worldview of the Muslims so as to enable you to make sense of what and why they believe; and their perception of world religions and specifically Judaism and Christianity.
- To help you become an effective witness without being confrontational.
- To help you prepare for some further studies in the field of Christian-Muslim relations.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM DIALOGUE

1. The importance of the origins of Islam for theology students
2. Denial of Christian influence at conception of Islam
 - a. "Islam is revealed"
 - b. Previous revelations confirm Islam
3. The encounter between Muhammad and Christianity
 - i. The main stages of Muhammad's Mission
 - ii. Encounter with the Jews
 - iii. Encounter with the Christians
4. Comments: Quranic Chapters for religious dialogue

DETAILED SYLLABUS

A) THE RELIGION OF ISLAM:

Understanding and responding to theological challenge of Islam

Muhammad in context

- Nature of Pre-Islamic Arabia.
- Life of Muhammad
- Call to Prophethood
- Conflict with Pagans, Jews and Christians

The Qur'an

- Origins and Sources
- Means of Revelation
- Compilation, Structure and Chronology
- its Nature and Authority in Islam
- Doctrine of Abrogation

The Sunnah

- Nature of the Sunnah
- Sources: Hadith and Sira
- Transmission and Authenticity
- Relationship to the Qur'an and Muslim life

God

- Origins and Significance of name "Allah", and its correlation and divergence with the Christian view of God
- The attributes of Allah in Islamic Thought
- Ninety-nine names
- Comparison with Christian dogmas

Angels and Jinns

- Nature and function of Angels
- Principal Angels in Islam
- Differences with Christian concepts
- Nature and work of the Jinn
- Muhammad's relation to the Jinn
- Satan and Demons – comparison with Christian concepts

Prophets

- Distinction between Apostles and Prophets in Islam
- Muhammad in relation to the former Prophets

B) THE DEVELOPMENT OF ISLAMIC COMMUNITIES

The historical development of Islam and its encounter with Christianity, from the birth of Muhammad in 57QAD to the abolition of the Caliphate in 1924

Historical Development of Islam

- Arabia and the Arabs
- Jews and Christians
- Persia and Byzantium

Political Development: Early Period

- Muhammad in Mecca
- Muhammad in Medina
- Muhammad after the conquest of Mecca

Khilafa

- Four Guided Caliphs
- Ummayyads
- Abbasids
- Fatimids and the Ummayyad of Andalus
- Ottomans
- **Sects**
- Sunni and Shia
- Four Schools of Law
- Sufi Orders
- Ismailis, Bahais, Ahmadiyya

Modern Movements

- Nationalist
- Secularist

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A quiz and major essay (12-15 pages).

REQUIRED READINGS

- * Tor Andae ***Mohammed: The Man and his Faith***, Ayer Company Publisher Inc., Salem. New Hampshre, 1971
- * Sayyed Hossein Nas, ***Ideal and Realities of Islam***, George Alien and Unwin Ltd, London, 1972
- * Kenneth Cragg, ***Muhammad and the Christian: A question of Response***, Orbis books, Maryknoll, New York
- * W.M. Watt, ***Islamic Philosophy and Theology: an Extended Survey***, Karachi, [Pakistan] Edinburgh Edinburgh University Press. 1987

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

- Hans Kung and Jurgen Moltmann: ***Islam: A Challenge for Christianity***, SCM Press: London, 1990
- S.J. Samantha, ***Faith in the Midst of Faiths: Reflections on Dialogue in Community***, Geneva : World Council of Churches, c1977.

Inter-religious Documents (1981);

Guidelines for Dialogue between Christians and Muslim
 Pontifical Council for inter-religious Dialogue
 Paulist Press New York/Mahwah, N J

- K. Cragg. ***The Event of the Qur'an: Islam in its scripture***, London Allen & Unwin [1971]

General Introduction to the following documents
 WCC
 Roman Catholic
 Glen Eyre Report