

**ICS 5020**  
**INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM**  
(ex Islam through Muslim Christian Eyes)  
3 Credit Hours

Syllabus

Online Course

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**I. DESCRIPTION**

This overview of Muslim faith and practice, with an emphasis on comparisons with Christianity, will help you develop a better understanding of Islam and learn to explain the gospel to Muslims with greater passion and sensitivity.

**II. OBJECTIVES**

- A. Recount the key events in the life of Muhammad and the rise of Islam.
- B. Narrate the significant events, people, and places in Islam's global expansion.
- C. Summarize key aspects of Islamic theology and practices.
- D. Distinguish between the diverse sects of Islam as well as different cultural expressions of Islam.
- E. Articulate the Christian message in a relevant manner in a Muslim context.
- F. Assess various approaches in evangelism, church planting, and ministry among Muslims.

**III. TEXTS**

*For purchase:*

Brown, Daniel. *A New Introduction to Islam*. Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishing Ltd., 2004.  
ISBN: 978-1405158077

George, Timothy. *Is the Father of Jesus the God of Muhammad?* Grand Rapids:  
Zondervan, 2002. ISBN: 978-0310247487

Haleem, Abdel, ed. *The Qu'ran (Oxford World Classics)*. Oxford, England: Oxford  
University Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780199535958.

*Not for purchase (on course website):*

Larson, Warren F. *Islam through Christian and Muslim Eyes: Class Notes*, 2008.

#### IV. REQUIREMENTS

- A. Discussion Forums.** There will be 10 discussion forums in which you will discuss the issues raised in the video lectures and readings. Your initial post must be posted by 11:59pm on Thursday night and should be 250 words in length. You should make at least one follow-up post of 100 words to a classmate's initial. Each post should be supported with references (by footnote or parenthetical notes) from the video lectures and readings.
- B. Book Review.** Students will write a 1000 word (4 page) book review of George's *Is the Father of Jesus the God of Muhammad?* The review should include a brief biographical note on the author, a summary of the books main ideas, and a critical evaluation (strengths and weaknesses) of the book.
- C. Qur'an Review.** A 1250 word (5 page) reaction to reading the Qur'an. The student should read the Qur'an chronologically and interact with two (2) or three (3) main themes or doctrines in the Quran.
- D. Muslim interview.** You may (1) visit a local mosque in your community during Friday prayers or (2) make an appointment with a Muslim of your gender and interview them. In either case write up a 500-750 word (2-3 page) report of the experience. What did you observe? What did you learn?
- E. Research Paper.** A 3500-4000 word (14-16 page) paper on an approved topic. Some approved topics include:
- An aspect of Islamic history.
  - Muslim culture (African, Arab)
  - A sect of Islam (i.e. Sunni, Shia, Sufi)
  - An aspect of Islamic theology (i.e. oneness of God; five pillars)
  - Folk Islam
  - An issue in presenting the gospel to Muslims (i.e. Jesus the Son of God)
  - A summary and critique of present church planting/evangelism strategies in the Muslim world.
  - A survey and critique of present tent-making strategies in the Muslim world.
- F. Research Paper Proposal.** A 1 page summary of your research paper topic, your specific thesis statement (what I will show/argue/prove/defend in this paper) and an initial bibliography of at least 6 scholarly sources.

**V. GRADING VALUES AND SCALE**

Assignment	Percentage	
Discussion Forums	25% (10 x 2.5%)	
George Book Review	15%	
Qur'an Review	15%	
Meet a Muslim paper	10%	
Research Paper Proposal	5%	
Final Research Paper	30%	
	100%	

**V. ACADEMIC SUCCESS ACCOMMODATIONS**

Students with physical, emotional, ADD, or learning disabilities needing academic accommodations should make requests through the office of Academic Success. These requests will be kept confidential and will be used only to provide academic accommodations. Because many accommodations require early planning, requests should be made as early as possible. The Academic Success office is located on the first floor of Rossi Student Center (803-807-5611, [academicsuccess@ciu.edu](mailto:academicsuccess@ciu.edu) ). If you already receive services through Academic Success, please contact our office so that we can make your academic experience in this class as successful as possible.