

(4ST5550) Christian Encounter with Islam 2019

2 hours

Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR

Dr Bruce Lowe received his first doctorate in Analytical Chemistry and taught, consulted and researched in a university setting over several years in both Chemistry and Chemical Engineering departments. He then completed his MDiv at RTS Orlando, becoming an ordained Presbyterian minister and working in college ministry, as a youth pastor, and in church revitalization. His second doctorate is in Ancient History/New Testament Studies, where his thesis has focused on the purpose of Romans through attention to its cultural setting (*Romans and its Social Relations*). Bruce has had numerous opportunities to serve amongst Muslim people over the years: Summer mission to Turkey; supervising Special Indonesian Group in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering; Mission to Mosque in Lakemba (Sydney); Interacting with Chemistry research members from Gaza, Bangladesh, Jordan. Bruce has had a special interest in ministry to Muslim people over the years.

SUBJECT TIME: Tuesday 2-5pm

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, 11-1pm & 4-5pm; Tuesday 12-2pm. Please email or text for appointment time.

CONTACT DETAILS: blowe@rts.edu; 678 447 3526 (cell).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the history, culture, traditions, beliefs, and practices of Islam. Students will reflect on the ways in which Islamic faith and life have been shaped by historical and cultural circumstances, study the diversity of Islam both in history and in contemporary expression, and develop a deeper understanding of Islam in order to love Muslims as their neighbors and witness more effectively to them.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Demonstrate knowledge of Islamic history.
2. Improve knowledge of present-day Islamic faith and practice.
3. Formulate apologetic and evangelism strategies for ministry to Muslims.

Required Texts:

D. W. Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam*, 2nd ed. (Chichester, UK: Wiley- Blackwell, 2009). ISBN: 9781405158077.

S. H. Nasr (Editor), *The Study Quran*, (Harper One, 2004). ISBN: 9780061125867.

Nawawi, *Al-Maqasid: Nawawi's Manual of Islam*, trans. Nuh Ha Mim Keller, 2nd ed. (Beltsville, MD: Amana, 2002). ISBN: 9781590080115.

A. Zaka and B. A. McDowell, *Muslims and Christians at the Table: Promoting Biblical Understanding Among North American Muslims* (Phillipsburg, NJ:P&R, 1999). ISBN: 9780875524733.

M. Youssef *Blindsided: The Radical Islamic Conquest* (Kobri Books, 2012) ISBN: 9780984810826

ASSESSMENT

20% Book Review of all assigned books (8 pages) – **See calendar (below) for due date.**¹

5% Report on visit to Mosque **Date to be decided.**²
(Place: 1148 Franklin Gateway SE, Marietta, GA 30067)

30% Research Papers **See below for due date and description.**

40% Final exam - **See calendar (below) for due date.**

5% “Ministry Time” **Details to be determined.**

DIRECTIONS FOR WRITING ASSIGNMENT

1. You should write a critical research paper (3500–4500 words, excluding footnotes and bibliography – **word count to be printed on title page**) on any topic covered in the lectures or reading. If you’re in any doubt about whether your topic is a suitable one, please run it by me first. Some suggestions:
 - i. Comparing the Bible and the Qur’an (teachings, origins, interpretation, etc.)
 - ii. Comparing Islamic and Reformed views on free will and predestination
 - iii. Evaluating the “Insider Movement”
 - iv. Islamic views on sin and salvation.
 - v. Challenges in evangelizing Muslims (theological, cultural, political, etc.)
 - vi. Christian responses to Muslim polemics
 - vii. Lessons from the writings and ministry of Samuel Zwemer
 - viii. Cooperation with Muslims on social issues (abortion, religious freedom, etc.)
2. Whatever topic you choose, make sure that your paper has a clear, focused thesis.

¹ This review should be up to eight pages (1.5 spaced). The goal is to persuade me that you have read and thought through the books in a thoughtful way. Best to start with a **short** summary of the author’s main views... then things you liked, things you didn’t like and a short conclusion. Include specifics (even short quotes), which will indicate that you have digested the material.

² This will be approx. 3-5 pages 1.5 spaced. It should report: 1) Your first impressions coming to the Mosque; 2) A brief summary of what was said in dialogue with the guide; and 3) Closing reflections on this discussion.

3. Your paper will be graded according to the following criteria, in no particular order: responsible use of Scripture, responsible use of sources, creativity, clarity, structure and coherence, cogency of argument, practical relevance, evidence of critical thinking, and good writing style (inc. grammar, spelling, and punctuation).
4. The paper should cite at least 8 scholarly sources.
 - i. For the purposes of this paper, a scholarly source is a book or article by a recognized expert in the field (and not aimed at a popular level for a general audience)—ideally one that has been peer-reviewed.
 - ii. Wikipedia is clearly not a scholarly source.
 - iii. That said, with sufficient discernment, Wikipedia can be a useful pointer to scholarly sources and is generally reliable for fact-checking on uncontroversial issues.
 - iv. Please consult me if you have any doubts about whether a source is scholarly.
 - v. You should not rely heavily on web-based sources. Use the library!
 - vi. *You must include a Bibliography at the end of your essay.*
5. The paper should be word-processed, not hand-written.
 - i. Use a 12-point font and 1.5 line-spacing for the main text.
 - ii. Use section headings where applicable to improve readability.
 - iii. Use footnotes (10-point font, single spaced) rather than endnotes.
 - iv. Use a recognized scholarly style for citations (e.g., Chicago, Turabian, SBL).
6. The paper should be submitted with your name as part of the file name, in “docx” format (not PDF), onto self-service into the relevant folder with a title page containing all of the following: the name and year of the course; your name; the professor’s name; the title of the paper; the exact word count for the main text of the paper (obtained from your word processor’s word-count feature).
7. You will be penalized if you do not observe the requirements and guidelines above.
8. Your paper’s due date can be found on the calendar below. It should be submitted on or prior to this date. Ensure that the paper is stamped with the date of submission. Late submissions will be penalized.
9. Your paper will be emailed back to you after grading with feedback on the top of the paper.

WHEN IS THE COURSE BEING RUN?
 Tuesday **August 25th** to Tuesday **November 10th**
 2pm – 5pm

General Outline

Week/Date	Hour	Visits?	Subject
A25	1		Finding our way/Overview/ Politics
	2		
	3		
S1	4		History
	5		

	6		
S8	7 8 9		History & Theology
S15	10 11 12		Theology, Exercise & Praxis
S22 (Book Review due 20%)	13 14 15		Praxis & Place of Women
S29	16 17 18		Text
O6	19 20 21		Text Exercise & Insider Movement
Mid-term Break October 12-16			
O20	22 23 24		Contextualizing the Gospel
O27	25 26 27		Apologetics & Evangelism
N3	Final Exam (40%) (in Class)		
N10	Research Paper Due (30%)		

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<p><i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both	Strong	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Book reviews 2. Verbal dialogue at Mosque. 3. "Verbal"/written dialogue assignment.

	heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.		
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Moderate	1. Comparison between Koran and Bible. 2. Biblical apologetics.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Minimal	1. Reformed apologetic approaches.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	1. This course is not so much about the student, as it is growing in understanding for Islam.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	1. Islam is so much about an alternative world-view. So in studying this world-view we will be forced to reconsider our own.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Strong	1. This is a course about learning to winsomely bear witness for Christ before Muslims.
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading, and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Xns.	Moderate/ Strong	1. In terms of preaching the gospel, this course fits well. 2) There is an "encouraging of concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide." 3) We are dealing here with one of the major world religions and how we should interact with it.

Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Student Services Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalogue [2017-19], p. 52-60; and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook, p. 14)