

Northwestern College

ICS3805 Understanding Islam

Spring semester, Quad 4, 2010 (2 credits)
2:00-3:05 p.m. MWF

Instructor: Dr. Garry Morgan
Nazareth Hall 4224

Description: An overview of the Muslim faith as it is practiced today. Emphasis will be on areas of conflict and agreement with Evangelical Christianity and current issues in Christian witness to Muslims.

Objectives: By the end of this course, students will:

1. Understand how Islam is practiced today in all its variations, including areas of debate within Islam.
2. Know the differences in belief systems between Islam and Christianity.
3. Learn the different methods, philosophies and current issues of those involved in Christian ministry among Muslims.
4. Grow in compassion for Muslims.
5. Develop skills in relationship-building and dialog with followers of Islam.
6. Become advocates for appropriately communicating the Gospel with Muslim people.

Texts:

Haneef, Suzanne. *What Everyone Should Know about Islam and Muslims*, 14th edition
McCurry, Don. *Healing the Broken Family of Abraham*.

Reacting to Reading Policy: When you are reading assignments for this and other courses at Northwestern College, you may encounter viewpoints that your instructors, as Christians, do not advocate. You may also encounter words or images that your instructors would not use or endorse. You should know that your instructors choose materials because of their value in helping you learn to read, write and think critically. Our purpose is not to shield you from encounters with non-Christian viewpoints but to help you handle such encounters as educated, Biblically informed and culturally literate Christians.

Office Hours: M 3:30-5:00 p.m.; WF 9:00-10:15 a.m.; TR 3:30-5:00 p.m. Other times are available by arrangement. Questions and suggestions about the course, missions and life are always welcome.

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CAPSS/DOSS statement

NWC students requiring accommodations for academic support or support for other reasons in association with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are directed to notify the Disabilities Office for Support Services (DOSS) immediately. Accommodations must receive prior approval. Confidentiality is respected! ADA accommodations are processed through the

DOSS office which is under the direction of The Center of Academic Programs for Support Services (CAPSS). Contact either:

Mr. David Golias, DOSS & CLT Assistant
Director
651-286-7446, dpgolias@nwc.edu N4237

Dr. Yvonne RB-Banks, Dean, Academic
Support Services
651-631-5221, yrbanks@nwc.edu N3124

Assignments and Grading:

1. 20% attendance, reading and participation. Ask questions! Make a genuine effort to understand the material and be an active learner. Please read the assigned pages according to the schedule (you will be asked to submit, in writing, how much of the assigned reading you have actually completed) and contribute your thoughts in class.. It not only helps your grade, it enhances your and others' learning. There is no specific attendance requirement. Attendance will be taken, but rather than penalize absences, attendance will be rewarded.
2. 10% Read at least fifteen pages **each** from the Quran and the Sunna/Hadith. Write a one-page descriptive and interactive report on each of the readings (total of two-three pages). Be sure to indicate what sections you read. These are available online at (among other places):
<http://www.usc.edu/schools/college/crcc/engagement/resources/texts/muslim/quran/>, or <http://www.muslim.org/english-quran/quran.htm> (Quran) and <http://www.usc.edu/dept/MSA/fundamentals/hadithsunnah/> (Sunnah/Hadith)
Due March 26
3. 10% Visit four different Islamic websites (not websites about Islam written by Christians). Write a descriptive paragraph about each site, including the URL. Based on what you found on the web, how do you see Islam as portraying itself to others? How would you rate the accuracy of the information on each site compared to our textbooks? Summarize your observations about how Islam is portrayed on the Web. **Due April 9**
4. 10% Write a 2-3 page reflective paper on the issue of conversion in Islam. Include the issues a Muslim is likely to face if they turn to faith in Jesus and what that implies for you as a Christian witness. This paper should show deep and careful thinking about the topic. **Due April 23.**
5. 10% field trip to a local mosque on **Friday, April 23 (tentative)**, leaving at 11:30 and returning about 3:00 p.m.
6. 20% Choose one book from the instructor's library (or another of your choice with instructor approval) and prepare a ten-fifteen minute class presentation on the book. The presentation should include supporting material from the texts, class lectures and possibly additional sources. Use of media in the presentation will be a plus, but is not required.
Due April 28
7. 20% Interview a follower of Islam. Ideally, the person interviewed should either be a convert to Islam from another religion or a recent immigrant to the U.S. who was born into a Muslim family. Ask open-ended questions and seek to find out what they actually believe. With the former, focus on why they chose to convert to Islam and/or what they did not like in their former religion. With the latter, focus on how they practice their faith in the U.S. compared to their homeland, including any changes or adjustments they have

had to make. Prepare a 3-4 minute presentation for the class and submit a written outline or manuscript to the instructor. **Due May 5.**

Notes:

- Written assignments should be written in Microsoft Word and uploaded to the Moodle site for this course by class time on the date due. Paper submissions (hard copies) may be used if you prefer and should be submitted in class on the date due.
- Please include your name and MC number on **everything** you turn in, even if uploaded to Moodle.
- Late papers will be reduced in grade 10% per day including weekends.
- See the Student Handbook for explanations of excused absences, and policies regarding cheating and plagiarism (available online at <http://nwc.edu/students/handbook>).

Grading scale is as follows:

95-100 A	78-80 C+	
91-94 A-	74-77 C	
88-90 B+	71-73 C-	
84-87 B	68-70 D+	61-63 D-
81-83 B-	64-67 D	60 and below F

Reading Schedule:

March 19 – McCurry, Part One

March 22 – McCurry, Part Two and Haneef, “To the reader” and chapter I

March 26 – McCurry, Part Three and Haneef, chapter II

March 29 – Haneef, chapters III-IV

April 7 – Haneef, chapters V-VII

April 12 – Haneef, chapters VIII-XI

April 16 – McCurry, Part Four

April 19 – Haneef, chapter XII and Part 5, Conclusions

April 23 – McCurry, Part Five

April 26 – McCurry, Part Six

April 30 – McCurry, Part Seven