



On-Campus Course Syllabus

MIN 426 L1

ISLAM AND CHRISTIAN ENGAGEMENT

FALL 2022

Class Information

Day and Time: MW 12:15-1:30 PM

Room Number: E204

Contact Information

Instructor Name: J. Scott Bridger, PhD

Instructor Email: sbridger@criswell.edu

Instructor Phone: 214-818-1323

Instructor Office Hours: [Please email for an appointment.](#) **General Office Hours:** MW 9:00-11:00 AM

Course Description and Prerequisites

A detailed study of Islam, the Qur'an, and Christian-Muslim engagement. Students are required to produce a research paper on a select topic in Islamic studies wherein they engage in textual and theological analysis, comparison, and contrast.

Course Objectives

1. Develop a love and respect for Muslim peoples and their cultures.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the origins of Islam as a tradition that emerges in conversation with biblical topics and theology.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the primary sources of authority for Muslims (e.g., the Qur'an, hadith, etc.).
4. Demonstrate knowledge of Muslim arguments against core Christian teachings and biblical responses to those arguments.

Required Textbooks

Qureshi, Nabeel. *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2014. ISBN: 9780310515029.

Reynolds, Gabriel Said. *The Emergence of Islam: Classical Traditions in Contemporary Perspective*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012. ISBN: 9780800698591.

Nickel, Gordon D., ed. *The Quran with Christian Commentary: A Guide to Understanding the Scripture of Islam*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2020. ISBN: 9780310534723.

Course Requirements and Assignments

- A. **PARTICIPATION (10%):** Active participation in discussions, in-class readings, engaging respectfully with guest speakers, etc., is expected and absences will negatively impact your participation grade even if excused (you cannot participate if you are not present). A student must be present for the **entire class** to receive a **full participation grade** for that day. At the discretion of the professor, a participation grade **under 80%** will result in a letter grade reduction; **74% or lower** will result in an “F” for the course.
- B. **GUEST LECTURE REPORTS (10%):** For each guest speaker/lecture, students will take notes and submit them (or a photocopy/scan) in writing to the professor. Students should capture a 300-400 word summary of what was presented/discussed for each guest speaker/lecture and **upload this to Canvas within one week of the lecture**. This will also serve as the students’ participation grade for those days.
- C. **QUR’AN JOURNAL (20%):** During the designated weeks, students are to read the assigned portions from Nickel’s Qur’an and summarize key findings in a journal (i.e., a Word document). Students should record key themes, teachings, theological topics, descriptions of God, comparisons/contrasts with the Bible, etc. Each reading, date, etc. should be clearly identified in the journal. The Qur’an Journal is to be **uploaded to Canvas in PDF format by midnight Dec 7, 2022**.
- D. **READING QUIZZES (20%):** During the designated weeks, five quizzes be administered to determine the student’s comprehension and mastery of the **Reynolds and Qureshi books** (see the schedule below). The quizzes are **open book**, but they are timed. The quiz is due at **midnight** before the following class period.
- E. **RESEARCH PAPER (20%):** Students are to select one biblical personality (e.g., David, Abraham, Joseph, Noah, Jesus, etc.) to research from a qur’anic and Islamic perspective and write an 10-12 paged, double-spaced research paper. Below is a suggested breakdown of the paper, though students are free to use their own titles, subtitles, etc. as they prefer:
 - Introduction
 - Qur’anic/Islamic Depiction of “ _____ ”
 - Literary Comparison and Contrast with the Biblical Portrait
 - Theological Analysis/Implications
 - ConclusionThe paper should be well researched, well written, clearly documented, and done in accordance with **Turabian/SBL guidelines** (title page, footnotes, bibliography, etc.; visit the Writing Center for assistance). Students should use primary sources (e.g., Qur’an, Hadith, Bible) as well as secondary literature (at least 5 sources). Additionally, students will present a synopsis of their findings during one of the final class sessions. The paper is to be **uploaded to Canvas in PDF format by midnight Nov 27, 2022**.
- F. **FINAL EXAM (20%):** Students are required to complete a final exam by **midnight Dec 7, 2022**.

Class Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to attend every class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any information missed. Instructors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual instructors may determine how attendance affects students’ ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

Campus Closure

To ensure the health and safety of students and employees, college administrators may decide it is necessary on rare occasions to close the campus. Once this decision is announced, instructors will contact students to provide

further details regarding the campus closure's impact on those courses. Students are responsible to watch for communication from their instructors and respond appropriately. (Unless otherwise specified by the instructor in this syllabus, this communication will be sent to the student's Criswell College e-mail account.)

In order to make progress toward the courses' objectives, instructors have the freedom during most campus closures to require students to participate in activities as alternatives to meeting on campus. An instructor may, for example, hold class remotely (through Zoom) at the scheduled time, provide a recording of a class or presentation for students to watch independently, or assign other activities that students are to accomplish before returning to campus. Students are responsible for accomplishing these alternative activities as well as any course requirements listed in this syllabus during the period of the campus closure. If, during the period of the campus closure, personal circumstances prohibit a student from accomplishing these alternative activities or course requirements and assignment listed in the syllabus during the campus closure, the student is responsible for communicating with the instructor as soon as possible. Instructors will not penalize students who do not have the means to accomplish the alternative activities during the period of the campus's closure and will work with students whose circumstances during the campus closure prohibited their timely completion of course requirements and assignments in the syllabus.

Grading Scale

A	93-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour
A-	90-92	3.7 grade points per semester hour
B+	87-89	3.3 grade points per semester hour
B	83-86	3.0 grade points per semester hour
B-	80-82	2.7 grade points per semester hour
C+	77-79	2.3 grade points per semester hour
C	73-76	2.0 grade points per semester hour
C-	70-72	1.7 grade points per semester hour
D+	67-69	1.3 grade points per semester hour
D	63-66	1.0 grade point per semester hour
D-	60-62	0.7 grade points per semester hour
F	0-59	0.0 grade points per semester hour

Incomplete Grades

Students requesting a grade of Incomplete (I) must understand that incomplete grades may be given only upon approval of the faculty member involved. An "I" may be assigned only when a student is currently passing a course and in situations involving extended illness, serious injury, death in the family, or employment or government reassignment, not student neglect.

Students are responsible for contacting their instructors prior to the end of the semester, plus filing the appropriate completed and approved academic request form with the Registrar's Office. The "I" must be removed (by completing the remaining course requirements) no later than 60 calendar days after the close of the term or semester in which the grade was awarded, or the "I" will become an "F."

Academic Honesty

Absolute truth is an essential belief and basis of behavior for those who believe in a God who cannot lie and forbids falsehood. Academic honesty is the application of the principle of truth in the classroom setting. Academic honesty includes the basic premise that all work submitted by students must be their own and any ideas derived or copied from elsewhere must be carefully documented.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating of any kind,
- submitting, without proper approval, work originally prepared by the student for another course,
- plagiarism, which is the submitting of work prepared by someone else as if it were his own, and
- failing to credit sources properly in written work.

Institutional Assessment

Material submitted by students in this course may be used for assessment of the college's academic programs. Since programmatic and institutional assessment is done without reference to specific students, the results of these assessments have no effect on a student's course grade or academic standing at the college. Before submitting a student's work for this type of assessment, the course instructor redacts the work to remove anything that identifies the student.

Institutional Email Policy

All official college email communications to students enrolled in this course will be sent exclusively to students' institutional email accounts. Students are expected to check their student email accounts regularly and to respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all communications from faculty and administrative departments.

Students are permitted to setup automatic forwarding of emails from their student email accounts to one or more personal email accounts. The student is responsible to setup and maintain email forwarding without assistance from college staff. If a student chooses to use this forwarding option, he/she will continue to be responsible for responding appropriately to all communications from faculty and administrative departments of the college. Criswell College bears no responsibility for the use of emails that have been forwarded from student email accounts to other email accounts.

Disabilities

Criswell College recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Criswell College is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. For more information, please contact the Student Services Office.

Intellectual Property Rights

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the instructor, students must neither materially nor digitally reproduce materials from any course offered by Criswell College for or with the significant possibility of distribution.

Resources and Supports

Canvas and SONIS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and SONIS for student data. Students needing assistance with Canvas should contact the Canvas Help Support line at (844) 358-6140. Tech support is available at this number, twenty-four hours a day. Students needing help with SONIS should contact the Campus Software Manager at studenttechsupport@criswell.edu.

Student Services: The Student Services Office exists to foster and encourage success in all areas of life—physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. Students are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting the office at 214.818.1332 or studentservices@criswell.edu. The Student Services Office also works with local counseling centers to ensure that every student has access to helpful mental health resources. More information is located on the college website at [Criswell College Mental Health Resources](#), and students may contact the Director of Student Services if they have any questions.

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by contacting or visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, email the Wallace Library at library@criswell.edu. Offsite login information is available in Canvas in the “Criswell Student Training Course” under “Library Information.”

Tutoring Center: Students are encouraged to consult with tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence in any subject matter taught at the college. Tutors have been recommended by the faculty to ensure that the tutor(s) are qualified to serve the student body. Every tutor brings experience and expertise in an effort to provide the proper resources for the subject matter at hand. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Tutoring Center located on the second floor in room E203, or schedule an appointment by emailing tutoringcenter@criswell.edu or by calling 214.818.1373.

Course Outline/Calendar

WEEK	CLASS DATES	ASSIGNMENTS R=Reynolds; Q=Qureshi; N=Nickel (Q#:#-#=sura:verses)	DUE DATE
WEEK 1	Aug 15/17	Introduction to the Course Basic Muslim Beliefs	
WEEK 2	Aug 22/24	600-800, Muhammad in Mecca Quiz #1: R (Pt 1 Intro, Ch 1); Q (Pt 1)	Midnight 8/21
WEEK 3	Aug 29/31	N (Intro, Q1, Q2:1-121)	Midnight 8/28
WEEK 4	Sept 5/7	600-800, Muhammad in Medina Quiz #2: R (Chs 2-3, Concl Pt 1); Q (Pt 2)	Midnight 9/4
WEEK 5	Sept 12/14	N (Q2:122-283)	Midnight 9/11
WEEK 6	Sept 19/21	Guest Lectures #1 & #2: Paul Golhashem	
WEEK 7	Sept 26/28	600-800, The Early Islamic Empire Quiz #3: R (Pt 2 Intro, Chs 4-5); Q (Pts 3-5)	Midnight 9/25

WEEK 8	Oct 3/5	N (Q3)	Midnight 10/2
WEEK 9	Oct 10/12	STUDENT DEVELOPMENT WEEK	
WEEK 10	Oct 17/19	800-1100/1100-1500, History of Islam Quiz #4: R (Chs 6-7, Concl Pt 2); Q (Pts 6-8)	Midnight 10/16
WEEK 11	Oct 24/26	N (Q4)	Midnight 10/23
WEEK 12	Oct 31/Nov 2	1500-Present, History of Islam Quiz #5: R (Pt 3 Intro, Ch 8, Concl); Q (Pts 9-10)	Midnight 10/30
WEEK 13	Nov 7/9	N (Q5)	Midnight 11/6
WEEK 14	Nov 14/16	Guest Lectures #3 & #4: TBD N ("Salvation in the Quran," p 180; "Fighting and Killing in the Quran," p 220; "Creation in the Quran," p 224; "Apocryphal Details in Quranic Stories," p 299; "The Death of Jesus in the Quran," 314; "Son of God in the Quran," 352; "Jihad in the Quran," p 368; "Manuscripts of the Quran," p 407; "Allah in the Quran," p 572	Midnight 11/13
WEEK 15	Nov 21/23	THANKSGIVING	
WEEK 16	Nov 28/30	Research Paper Presentations	Midnight 11/27
WEEK 17	Dec 5/7	Final Exam Journals Due	Midnight 12/7