MW 720 Mission to Muslim Peoples

Dale F. Walker
The course Mission to Muslim Peoples assumes a background of knowledge about Islam taught in World Religions courses, and builds on this to give deeper understanding to the backgrounds, history, and living reality of Islam in the contemporary world. Our focus will be the Christian-Muslim interaction in the Church's fulfilling of the apostolic call for witness to Muslim peoples. The question of contextualization of the Gospel message for Muslim peoples will be of primary concern throughout the course.

Goals: Through this course, students will:
1. deepen their knowledge of Islam as a living religion
2. see some of the variety of Islam in history and in the contemporary world.
3. assess the the contacts between Christians and Muslims through history.
4. gain understanding of the contemporary mission to Muslim peoples.
5. explore new ways of witness to Muslims.
6. be challenged to be part of God's mission today.

Tentative schedule of classes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 3</td>
<td>Pretest, introduction to the course</td>
<td>Miller, ch 1-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 5</td>
<td>The question of contextualization</td>
<td>Handout articles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 10</td>
<td>A little Arabic</td>
<td>Miller, ch 2-3</td>
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<td>Sept 12</td>
<td>The universal practices of Islam</td>
<td>Miller, ch 11, 14</td>
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<td>Sept 17</td>
<td>Muhammad [reading report, 1]</td>
<td>Miller, ch 5,6,7</td>
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<td>Sept 19</td>
<td>Muhammad (Paper #1 due)</td>
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<td>Sept 24</td>
<td>Muhammad</td>
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<td>Sept 26</td>
<td>The Qur'an</td>
<td>Miller, ch 8</td>
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<td>Oct  1</td>
<td>The Qur'an [reading report, 2]</td>
<td>Miller, 10, 12</td>
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<td>Oct  3</td>
<td>Early History of Islam (Paper #2 due)</td>
<td>Miller, ch 15</td>
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<td>Oct  8</td>
<td>Hadith and Tradition</td>
<td>Miller, ch 9, 13</td>
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<td>Oct 10</td>
<td>Development of Islamic Civilization</td>
<td>Miller, ch 16</td>
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<td>Oct 15</td>
<td>Sufism [reading report, 3]</td>
<td>Miller, ch 17</td>
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Oct 17  Modern "Islamism"  Rdg: Miller, ch 18
Oct 22  Kingdom Conference  [Possible guest lecturers]
Oct 24  Kingdom Conference  [Ramadan begins Oct 26]
Oct 29  Islam in "the West"  [reading report, 4]
Oct 31  Muslim-Christian Interaction  (Paper #3 due)  Rdg: Accad
Nov  5  Muslim-Christian Interaction  Rdg: Moucarry, Intro and part 1
Nov  7  Christian and Islamic apologetics
Nov 14  Back to Contextualization and Mission  (Paper #4 due)
Nov 19  Folk Islam  Rdg: Moucarry, Part 3.
Nov 21  The political view  [reading report, 6]
Dec  5  Final reports and summary  (Paper #5 due)  ['Id al-Fitr, 6-7 Dec]
Dec 12  [Reading report, 7],  Final exam

Class attendance and full participation by each class member is expected. At least some of the student papers will be read and discussed in class.

Written Assignments:

1. Choose a belief or practice in Islam. Write about this as a presentation you might give to a church study group (i.e. no knowledge or experience of Islam is assumed). Describe this belief or practice in an objective way; then discuss the corresponding Christian belief or practice; give a reasoned evaluation (Can we learn from them? Can they learn from us? How can spiritual life be deepened through this understanding?). Approx 4-5 pages.

2. Choose a character or event in Muslim history. This may be from Muhammad's lifetime, or later, or even from recent events. Use a variety of sources to give an understanding of what was going on and his/her/its significance for the Muslim movement as a whole. Approx 4-5 pages.

3. Choose a person from mission history about whom sources and discussion are available. Possible choices inter alia would be: Ramon Lull, Francis of Assisi, Henry Martyn, K G Pfander, Temple Gairdner, Samuel Zwemer, Louis Massignon. More contemporary names might be Kenneth Cragg and Phil Parshall. Using various sources including biographies and samples of their writing, report on the life and times of the person, his views of Islam, and his significance in the history of mission to Muslim peoples. Approx 4-5 pages.
4. Choose a country, or area/ethnic group within a large country, with a significant Muslim population. Collect information from library resources, internet, and interviews about this country, the manifestations of Islam in it, the history of the Christian church and its mission to Muslims, and the current situation of the church in that culture. Approx 8-10 pages.

5. Choose a church or mission organization which ministers directly to Muslim peoples. Possible choices are: Arab World Ministries, Frontiers, OMS, Pioneers, as well as church bodies from whom information can be obtained. Using library resources, internet, and interviews, write a presentation about this ministry: its history, focus, view of Islam, policies, training, etc. This research can be combined with Paper #4, and possibly with Paper #3. Plan your research and carry it out through the whole semester. The paper should be approx. 8-10 pages.

Recommended Books:

The Qur'an: Three editions are readily available:
  (Probably the best translation available, though not usually acceptable to Muslims)
  (The translation is rather wooden, but it is acceptable to Muslims, and its smaller size makes it easier to carry around)
  (The translation is literal; the commentary is not often very enlightening, but the translation is printed with the Arabic text, and the edition is acceptable to Muslims. If you have learned the Arabic alphabet with a start on the language, you can begin to pick out significant words of the text)

International Journal of Frontier Missions
- (Five issues deal with Islam, and give a wide range of recent evangelical thinking on mission to Muslim peoples. These special issues will be on reserve in the library. Many of the articles should be read through the semester)

- (Everyone is encouraged to have this resource. Besides some 40 books and a number of other articles, several course outlines are included. A list of the included books follows. Call numbers are given for those which are also available in the ATS library)


Nashville: Broadman, 1996
Campbell, William F. The Qur'an and the Bible in the Light of History and Science. Upper Darby: Middle East Resources, 1986
Nehls, Gerhard, Christians Ask Muslims, 1988
BV2625 Parshall, Phil. New Paths in Muslim Evangelism: Evangelical Approaches to Contextualization.
  Grand Rapids: Baker, 1980
  Chicago: Moody, 1991
BP189.2 Schimmel, Annemarie. Mystical Dimensions of Islam.
BP173 Torrey, Charle Cutler. The Jewish Foundation of Islam.
  np: Jewish Inst of Religion, 1933.
  Pasadena: Zwemer Institute, 1989
BP134 Zwemer, Samuel M. The Moslem Christ: An essay on the life, character, and teachings of Jesus Christ according to the Koran and orthodox traditions. NY: Am Tract Society, 1912

Other books to be assigned:
  Accad, Fouad Elias. Building Bridges: Christianity and Islam.
  Miller, Roland E, Muslim Friends: Their Faith and Feeling.
  St Louis: Concordia, 1995
  Moucarry, Chawkat, The Prophet and the Messiah.
  Downers Grove: IVP, 2001

Readings:
Students are expected to read widely throughout the semester. The goal should be a minimum of 1500 pages, or approximately 110 pages per week. Some readings will be assigned; others will be chosen by the student, according to each one's interests and needs, e.g. research for the papers.
Browse in the library stacks, in the following areas:
  B 741-753 Islamic philosophy
  BP 1-399 Islam, in general
  BV 2625-2626 Missions to Muslims
  DS 35+ Historical, geographical, and political aspects
  HQ 1170 Women in Islam
  PJ 6000+ Arabic language and literature
Don't neglect the periodicals. Glance through, at least, Islamic Horizons, a general magazine for the Muslim public in the U.S.
The Qur'an: Read what you can of the Qur'an. Some sections will be assigned, or read in class; bring your copy to each class session. You will not be required to read the whole book during the course of the semester. Everyone in ministry to Muslims, however, should be able to say, "I've read it."

Reading reports:
Keep a written account of all your readings: articles, and chapters/sections of books. This should include author/title/pages, a short statement of what the reading is about, the purpose/goal of the author, your evaluation of the piece, and any questions that the reading rouses in your mind. This cumulative listing should be turned in every other Tuesday.

Internet:
Browse the web for sites relevant to our subject. Articles read here can be counted towards the reading goal, and should be fully cited according to the address.
Begin with: www.answering-islam.org and www.debate.org.uk
Look into some Muslim-sponsored sites also.

Videos: More and more videos are available which portray aspects of Islam. A whole series of videos. A whole series of videos from the Islamic Information Service will be available on overnight reserve. (Watching and taking notes on videos counts for the "reading reports." (One hour = 20 pages).

Grading: Paper 1 10% Mid-term 10%
Paper 2 10% Final 10%
Paper 3 10% Reading reports 10%
Paper 4 15% Class participation 10%
Paper 5 15%