



Doctrine of God in Christianity and Islam (THEO6332/PHIL6332)

NOLA2U Flex

(live) Thursday 6-8:50 PM

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Theological and Historical Studies Division
Fall 2019**

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Seminary Mission Statement

The mission of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment through the local church and its ministries.

Purpose, Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This workshop addresses Doctrinal Integrity and helps each student understand the essential historic and biblical values of the doctrine of God especially in contrast to the Islamic doctrine of God. Annually, the President will designate a core value that will become the focus of pedagogy for the year. This academic year, the core value is *Spiritual Vitality* – “We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.” Our confessional commitments are outlined in the Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith & Message 2000.

Course Description

This course is conducted within the context of the NOBTS Institute of Christian Apologetics with the objective of preparing students to engage Muslims with the gospel effectively. The student will be exposed to historical, theological and apologetic realities in the contrasts and compatibilities of Christian and Islamic doctrines.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course the student will

- Be competent in discussing the major theological and practical facets of Christian and Muslim doctrines of God.
- Appreciate the apologetic task in communicating the doctrine of God in relationships with the Islamic community.
- Experience the skills of a learning community seeking to present respectful Christian apologetic content based in the doctrine of God, in discussion, debate and written forms with Muslims.

Course Teaching Methods

The course will involve the following methodologies:

- Students will read texts from various sources and participate in guided discussions of the content.
- Students will develop and deliver assigned research papers on facets of the Christian and Muslim doctrine of God.
- Students will coherently and respectfully discuss and critique views and presentations of their peers, professor and guests.

Textbooks

Primary Sources:

The Holy Bible-any version is acceptable

The Qur'an-any version is acceptable

Required Readings/ Viewings:

Garrett, James Leo. *Systematic Theology, 3rd Edition. Volume 1, ch 3.* Richland Hills, TX: Bibal, 2007.

George, Timothy. *Is the Father of Jesus the God of Muhammad?* Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2002.

Al Ghazali, Abd Hamid Muhammad (Nazih Daher and David Burrell trans.). *The Ninety-nine Beautiful Names of God.* Islamic Texts Society, 1999.

Videos on Blackboard: From the Sabiil research project: Topic 3: The Nature of God (E. Lamie, M. Basiel, A. Turkey, M. Marei, and F. Samuel) linked on You Tube.

<http://www.allah.org>

<http://www.islamreligion.com/articles/195/>

Requirements

1. Required Texts: **15%**

Reading or viewing of all assigned source materials as demonstrated in classroom or on-line discussions.

2. Research Project: **30%**

The student will research a selected theme. Themes must be submitted to the professors in writing by opening a discussion thread under the discussion forum: Research Topic by 6 PM Aug 23. Subject suggestions are provided below (students may suggest other topics). No two students will be allowed to research the same theme and approval for the theme may be granted after registration for the course is completed. Email a half-page research proposal to medens@nobts.edu and copy edensgrader@gmail.com. Proposals include your name, selected topic (from list below or request your own topic), Prioritized top 3 [1st, 2nd, and 3rd] preferred oral presentation dates (Oct 24-Dec 5).

Students will submit a “rough” outline of the research project and 10 bibliographical sources by 6 PM Sept 5.

The research projects will comprise 18-25 documented pages of text in addition to the bibliographical summary. Reports are to be emailed to the professor and grader by Oct. 21, 2019 at 8 AM.

Rubric for Grading of Research papers in Islamic Studies Classes

The paper is evaluated in the following ways. The total value of the assignment in the course is 30% of the final grade. The major point categories (in bold) are subdivided below each. An explanation of the criteria for points to be granted is provided.

15 of 100% = on time completion and proper submission of the Research

- 4 points for submission of the research topic by 6 PM Aug 23.
- 4 points for submission of the rough outline of the project and bibliographical sources by Sept 5 class time.
- 7 points for submission of the research paper paper by email by 8 AM Oct 21.

30 of 100% = Development of an argument and topic in written form

- 5 points for a concise and logical statement of a research question or thesis
- 10 points for coherence in development of the argument in clear subtopics which together accomplish the researchers objective
- 10 points for writing paragraphs and sentences which communicate a whole and singular thought.
- 5 points for ¼ to ½ page concluding section of the paper detailing the findings of research

40 of 100% = Interaction with global resources in research.

- 20 points for discovery of the breadth and depth of research available to explore the research question.
- 20 points for integrating the sources into a paper with one voice. Normally this results in limited block quotes.

15 of 100% = Presentation of the Research paper

- 5 points for coherence
 - 1 - sentences are marked by coherence and meaning
 - 3 - paragraphs are built around an identifiable subject and “hang together”
 - 1 - paper is marked by simplicity and unity towards a theme.
- 5 points for simplicity and unity
 - 1 - paragraphs have no sense of unity
 - 3 - paragraphs have unity and the paper moves in a direction
 - 1 - paper in total aspect has unity and each sentences builds its paragraph and unity of the theme.
- 2 points for form
 - 2 points for proper research style. If you are studying for a major which allows a “style sheet” other than Kate Turabian please indicate the form employed on the blank sheet under the title page.
- 3 points for "wordsmithing"
 - 1 - Some care in word choices is observed
 - 1 - Attempt is made to vary vocabulary and use the most meaningful simple word for each concept.
 - 1 - A really polished paper

3. Oral presentation of the paper and response: 55%

a. Oral Presentation – 30% The student will present during a classroom session (either live or by BlueJeans recording) a Twenty minute summation of the paper from #2.

b. Response – 25% Each student will listen to all other student presentations and provide written peer critique within a discussion board thread. The 4 parts of the evaluation shall be limited to the following: Coherence-does the discussion “hold together” and make sense logically; Balance-does the content draw on moral, spiritual, and social elements to “make the case”; Positive argument- while the argument may demonstrate knowledge of negative elements of Islam the bulk of the material is actively presenting the God of the Bible and in no way denigrates Islam or other religions; Winsome- the argument is personal and seeks to draw the hearer into relationship. Each student’s faithfulness in providing objective feedback will be evaluated by the professor. Students evaluating all presentations in a timely fashion (posting a response within 7 days of the student paper being delivered in class). Student evaluations based on the rubric above for all threads.

Suggestions for Research:

1. Choose one communicable attribute of God in the Bible contrasted and compared to Allah. (see Millard Erickson or Wayne Grudem for attributes of God). Specify the communicable attribute in your proposal.
2. Choose one incommunicable attribute of God in the Bible contrasted and compared to Allah. (see Millard Erickson or Wayne Grudem for attributes of God). Specify the incommunicable attribute in your proposal.
3. Choose one or more of the 99 Names of God from Islam and contrast and compare them to attributes of God as presented in the Bible. Specify the names or names in your proposal.
4. How does the nature of God in the Bible and the Qur'an impact human salvation of the
5. How does the Qur'anic and Biblical concepts of God's special revelation compare and contrast.
6. Biblical and Qur'anic understandings of God's nature impacts the possibility of His presence and relationship within material creation. Describe both realities and compare and contrast the positions.

Grading: (NOBTS grading scale: A>92, B>84, C>76, D>69) Incomplete may be granted only by the Registrar. No assignments may be posted after May 12, 1916.

Discussion of Required Texts	15%
Research Project	30%
Oral Presentation	30%
Posted Responses to student papers	25%

Schedule of Course content:

Week 1 (Aug 22) : Orientation and Unit 1: Review of the biblical doctrine of God.

Points to cross-reference the biblical context for a doctrine of God drawn from BF&M:

Ge 1:1,2; 2:7; 18:1ff.; **Ex** 3:14; 6:60; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; **Le** 22:2; **De** 6:4; 32:6; **Ju** 14:6; **1 Ch** 29:10; **Jo** 26:13; **Ps** 2:7ff.; 19:1-3; 51:11; 110:1ff.; 139:7ff.; **Is** 7:14; 43:3,15; 53; 61:1-3; 64:8; **Je** 10:10; 17:13; Joel 2:28-32; **Mt** 1:18-23; 3:16,17; 4:1; 6:9ff.; 7:11; 8:29; 11:27; 12:28-32; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 23:9; 27; 28:1-6,19; **Mk** 1:1, 9-12; 3:11; **Lu** 1:35; 4:1,18-19, 41; 11:13; 12:12; 22:70; 24:46,49; **Jn** 1:1-18,29; 4:24; 5:26; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:6-13,16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14,15-16,28; 17:1-8, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; **Ac** 1:7-9; 2:1-4,22-24,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55-56; 8:17,39; 9:4-5,20; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; **Ro** 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,9-11,14-16,26-27,34; 10:4; **1 Co** 1:30; 2:2,10-14; 3:16 8:6; 12:3-11,13; 15:1-8,24-28; **2 Co** 5:19-21; 8:9; **Ga** 4:4-6; **Ep** 1:13-14,20; 3:11; 4:6,7-10,30; 5:18; **Ph** 2:5-11; **Co** 1:13-22; 2:9; **1 Th** 4:14-18; 5:19; **1 Ti** 1:17; 2:5-6; 3:16; 4:1; **2 Ti** 1:14; 3:16; **Tt** 2:13-14; **He** 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:8,12-15,24-28; 11:6; 12: 2, 9; 13:8; **1 Pe** 1:17; 2:21-25; 3:22; **2 Pe** 1:21; **1 Jn** 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:13-15; 5:6-7,9; **2 Jn** 7-9; **Re** 1:10,13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16; 22:17

- View the Sabiil Topic 3: The Nature of God-- E. Lamie and be prepared to discuss his main points in class or discussion board this week.
- Read *Systematic Vol 1*: 212-222
- **Submit topic of research for approval.**

Week 2 (Aug 29) : Unit 1 (cont): Review of the biblical doctrine of God.

- View the Sabiil Topic 3: The Nature of God-- M. Basiet and be prepared to discuss his main points in class or discussion board this week.
- Read *Systematic Vol 1*: 223-238.

Week 3 (Sept 5) : Unit 2: Ways and Aspects in which Allah of Islam resembles God.

- View the Sabiil in Topic 3: The Nature of God-- F. Samuel and be prepared to discuss his main points in class or discussion board this week
- Read *Systematic Vol 1*: 239-264
- **Submit a rough outline of the research project and 10 bibliographic sources**

Week 4 (Sept 12) : Unit 3-Contrasts between the living God and Allah, the god of Islam.

- View the Sabiil in Topic 3: The Nature of God-- A. Turkey, and be prepared to discuss his main points in class or discussion board this week.
- Read *Systematic Vol 1*: 265-336
- Read *Is The Father of Jesus the God of Muhammad?* pg 9-54

Week 5 (Sept 19) : Unit 4-God's relationship with prophets compared and contrasted to Allah's with Muhammad the seal of Islamic prophesy.

- View the Sabiil in Topic 3: The Nature of God--M. Marei and be prepared to discuss his main points in class or discussion board this week.
- Read *Is The Father of Jesus the God of Muhammad?* pg 55-68.
- Read *99 Beautiful Names of God*: 1-48

Week 6 (Sept 26) : Unit 5-The Biblical God's sovereignty compared and contrasted to the Islamic god's determinism.

- Read *Is The Father of Jesus the God of Muhammad?* pg 69-140.
- Read *99 Beautiful Names of God*: 49-148

Week 7(Oct 3) : Unit 6-Religious and Worship implications of the Biblical God and Qur'anic god.

- Read *99 Beautiful Names of God*: 149-166

Week 8 (Oct 10) : Unit 7 -Apologetic and Missiological challenges and opportunities found in

the biblical and qur'anic doctrines of God.

- Read *99 Beautiful Names of God* 167-182

Fall Break (Oct 14-18)

Research project due Oct 21

Week 9 (Oct 24 : Student Presentations

Week 10 (Oct 31) : Student Presentations

Week 11 (Nov 7) : Student Presentations

Week 12 (Nov 14): Student Presentations

Week 13 (Nov 21): Student Presentations

Thanksgiving

Week 14 (Dec 5) : Student Presentations

Week15 (Dec 12) Final's week if necessary Student Presentations

Selected Bibliography

Primary Sources

The Holy Bible

The Qur'an

Baqi, Fuwad Abdul, ed. *Al-Lu'Lu' Wal Marjan: A collection of Agreed Upon Ahadith from Al-Bukhari and Muslim vol 1 & 2*. Arabic and English translated by Muhammnad Muhsin Khan, Lahore, Pakistan: Kazi Publications, 1990.

Secondary Sources

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- Armour, Rollin, Sr. *Islam, Christianity, and the West: A Troubled History*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 2002.
- Armstrong, Karen. *Islam: A Short History*. Toronto, Canada: Random House, Inc., 2002
- _____. *Muhammad: A Biography of the Prophet*. New York, New York: HarperCollins Publishers, Inc., 1993
- Bramsem, Paul. *The Way of Righteousness: Good News for Muslims*. Spring Lake NJ: CMMML. 1998.
- Daniel, Norman. *Islam and the West* Oxford, England: Oneworld Publications, 1993.
- DeLong-Bas, Natana J. *Wahhabi Islam From Revival and Reform to Global Jihad*. New York, New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.
- Garlow, James L. *A Christian's Response to Islam*. Tulsa, OK: RiverOak Publishing. 2002.
- Geisler, Norman L.; Abdul Saleeb. *Answering Islam: The Crescent in Light of the Cross* Baker Book House 2002
- Gregorian, Vartan *Islam a Mosaic, Not a Monolith* Washington, DC: Brookings Institution, 2003
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- Miller, Dave. *The Qran Unveiled: Islam and New Testament Christianity in Conflct*. Montgomery, Alabama: Apologetics Press, Inc, 2005.
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- Murata, Sachiko and William C. Chittick, *The Vision of Islam*. St. Paul, Minnesota: Paragon House, 1994.
- Nigosian, S.A. *Islam: Its History, Teaching, and Practices*. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2004
- Qutb, Sayyid. *Social Justice in Islam*. Translated by John B. Hardie. Oneonta, New York: Islamic Publications International, 2000.
- _____. *Basic Principles of the Islamic Worldview*. Translated by Rami David. North Haledon, New Jersey: Islamic Publications International, 2006
- Ur-Rahim, Muhammad ‘Ata. *Jesus: Prophet of Islam*. Elmhurst, NY.: Tahrike Tarsile Qur’an, Inc., ND
- Shipp, Glover. *Christianity and Islam: Bridging the Two Worlds*. Webb City, Missouri: Covenant Publishing, 2002.
- Swartley, Keith E., ed. *Encountering The World of Islam*. Littleton, Colorado: Authentic Media, 2005.