



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

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Theological & Historical Studies
Jan 8-12, 2018**

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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 Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Workshop 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 Servant Leadership by helping each student understand and engage Muslims with the biblical concept of God in contrast to the Islamic doctrine of God.

Workshop Description

This workshop is conducted within the context of the Defend the Faith special event of the NOBTS Institute of Christian Apologetics. 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 workshop the student will:

- Be familiar with the major historical and contemporary facets of Christian and Muslim views of God.
- Be competent to discuss major trends of changes in the presentation of the doctrine within the two faith communities.
- Appreciate differences between Islamic and Christian doctrines of God.
- Be better equipped to engage in respectful Christian apologetics with Muslims based on the doctrine of God.

Course Teaching Methods

The course will involve the following methodologies:

- Students will attend or listen to all sessions of the DTF 2018 conference.
- Students will read texts and view videos from Christian and Muslim thinkers on the

Doctrine of God.

- Students will conduct guided research on an aspect of the comparison of Christian and Islamic doctrines of God.

Textbooks

Bloesch, Donald G. *God the Almighty* Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Academic, 1995
George, Timothy *Is the Father of Jesus the God of Muhammad?* Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2002.

Aslan, Reza *No god but God* New York, New York: Random House, 2006.

<http://www.allah.org>

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

Requirements

1. Research Project : 30%

Each student will research a selected topic. No two students will be allowed to research the same topic (see suggested topic below).

A. The 1-page proposal due on Jan 10, 2018 must contain the following:

- Student name, course number and date.
- Subject to be researched and proposed title.
- One sentence thesis (What are you trying to investigate? What is your theory or hypothesis?)
- One paragraph rationale (Why is this interesting to you? What sources exist for this research?)

B. The research paper will be Turabian formatted and consist of a maximum of 5,000 words (20 pages), not including cover page and bibliography.

Topics such as the following will be considered:

1. A Comparison of Islamic and Christian Monotheism
2. The difference between biblical and qur'anic roles of God as (complete with one of the following)
 - a. Creator of all things spiritual and material
 - b. Lord of all in history and eternity
 - c. Judge of all
3. The relationship between deity, spirit, and matter in Christianity and Islam.
4. The difference in the means and content of special revelation between the Christian and Islamic concept of deity.

5. Is God knowable in Islam? Is the answer different in various Islamic communities (ie Sunni, Shi'a, Sufi, etc.).
6. The comparable content between the Christian and Islamic conception of deity as seen in special revelation.
7. Human creation and the God of Christianity and Islam.
8. The reality of God in Christianity and Islam in relationship with Adamic Sin, sin nature of humans, and sins.
9. How does the God of Christianity and Islam respond to human need and sin? Compare and contrast.
10. How does the day of judgement work within Christianity and Islam? How does God judge persons and angels?

Grading rubric for research papers:

Content 40%

Coherent and Concise (15%)

Clearly organized structure of thought (25%)

Sources 40%

Breadth of research (20%)

Selection of scholars to be quoted in the paper (are they representative of the religion?) (20%)

Style and Form 20%

Word choice and polish (10%)

Turabian formatting, but be consistent (10%)

2. **Attendance in person of all sessions led by Drs Bridger and Edens. :15%**

Roll will be available for each session. It is the responsibility of enrolled students to check attendance.

3. **Interact with the discussion topics in the black board shell. :10%**

Postings should reflect reading of required text and will be evaluated by the Professor.

4. **Listening to all sessions of DTF 2018 through web provided resources. : 5%**

5. **Combined Book Review (3 Required Texts) : 15%**

Students will write a maximum 2,500 word (10 page) book review including the 3 required texts of the class. Spend around 500 words (2 pages) per book, followed by 1000 words (4 pages) of synthesis and personal interaction with the topic of "The Doctrine of God in Christianity and Islam".

6. **Review of videos or Summary of a Muslim interview** : 20%

Students may either review the 6 English sub-titled videos of Arabic speaking Christians and Muslims with a ½ page review of each **or** write a 2-3 page verbatim or summary of an interview with a Muslim Cleric concerning his view of God. (If possible Friday after the conference Dr. Edens will lead a “field trip” to a local Mosque and lead an interview with the Islamic leader on the Islamic doctrine of God. This opportunity will be explored on Tuesday in a discussion with students. This interview, should it happen, can serve for this assignment.)

7. **Baptist Faith & Message Reflection paper** : 5%

Students will write a one-page reflection paper on Article Two: God, in *The Baptist Faith and Message 2000*.

NOTE: All deadlines are firm. Missed deadlines will result in 1 lost point per day after the assigned date. Submit all assignments by email in MS Word format, double spaced and formatted as per the NOBTS style guide at

<http://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/turabiantutor.pdf>

Schedule of Events:

- Jan 10 Research Proposal Due (Requirement 1A)**
- Jan 15 BF&M Reflection Paper due (Requirement 7)**
- Jan 29 Book Review Paper Due (Requirement 5)**
- March 12 Research Project Due (Requirement 1B)**
- Jan 10 Review of Videos or Summary of Interview (Requirement 6)**
- Jan 12 Attendance in Bridger and Edens sessions (Requirement 2)**
- Jan 29 Interaction with BlackBoard Shell discussion (Requirement 3)**
- Feb 26 Listen to all DTF 2018 sessions (Requirement 4)**

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 Muhammad Muhsin Khan, Lahore, Pakistan: Kazi Publications, 1990.

Secondary Sources

Algar, Hamid. *Wahhabism: A Critical Essay*. Oneonta, New York: Islamic Publications International, 2002.

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

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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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- Kepel, Gilles. *The War for Muslim Minds: Islam and the West*. Translated by Pascale Ghazaleh. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The Belknap Press, 2006.
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- Lewis, Bernard. *Cultures in Conflict: Christians, Muslims, and Jews in the Age of Discovery*. New York, New York: Oxford University Press, Inc., 1995.
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- McCurry, Don M., ed. *The Gospel and Islam: A Compendium*. Monrovia, California: Missions Advanced Research and Communication Center, 1979.
- Miller, Dave. *The Qur'an Unveiled: Islam and New Testament Christianity in Conflict*. Montgomery, Alabama: Apologetics Press, Inc, 2005.
- Miller, Roland E. *Muslims and the Gospel: Bridging the Gap*. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Lutheran University Press, 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.