

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE
FALL 2011

MUSLIM JESUS

(REL 209)

CLASSROOM: EATON HALL 111
TIME: MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY, 10:10-11:05AM

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Shalahudin Kafrawi
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Office Hours: Monday at 12:00-2:00 PM; Wednesday at 2:30-3:30 PM;
Friday at 9:00-10:00 AM; or by appointment

CONTENTS

This course examines Qur'anic portrayals of Jesus, his message, and his followers. It subsequently looks at how Muslims interpret those portrayals in their exegetical, legal, and sufic writings and explores how their interpretations have implication in interfaith relations. The course discusses topics related to the perceptions of Jesus in the Qur'an and Muslims' interpretations on the nature of Jesus, on the place of Jesus in the chain of prophecy, and on the validity of Jesus' message. It also talks about the significance of Jesus in Islam's mystical tradition, the messianic message in Muslim societies, and Qur'anic perceptions of Christians and their Gospels.

The course will address the following questions: Do Muslims recognize Jesus? How is the portrayal of Jesus in the Qur'an and Muslims' interpretations similar and different from Christian understandings of Jesus? What are the causes of the different images of Jesus in Qur'anic and Christian perspectives? What does it mean when the Qur'an describes itself and Jesus as the Word of God? Why does the Qur'an regard Jesus as revered personality while at the same time reject his divinity? How do Muslim Jesus and Christian Jesus become a source of harmony and contentions between Muslims and Christians?

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of the semester, I expect students to be able to:

- ✓ demonstrate their understanding of the portrayal of Jesus in the Qur'an and its significance in Muslim's life;
- ✓ point out the similarities and differences of the portrayal of Jesus in Muslim and Christian perspectives;
- ✓ elaborate on the implications of Muslim understanding of Jesus in interreligious relations;
- ✓ analyze the Qur'an's affirmation of the message of previous prophets and the Qur'an's rejection of the divinity of Jesus;
- ✓ show the presence of messianic message in Muslim societies;

- ✓ formulate the ethical dimension of Muslim treatment of Jesus.

CURRICULAR GOALS

This course satisfies the following curricular goals:

- ✓ Goal 1: effective communication skills. This course cultivates “the ability to read and listen critically and the ability to speak and write effectively.”
- ✓ Goal 2: critical thinking and argumentation. This course aims at “the ability to articulate a question, to identify and gain access to appropriate information, to organize evidence, and to construct a complex written argument.”
- ✓ Goal 7: knowledge of the multiplicity of world cultures. This goal is achieved through understanding the perceptions of Jesus and his followers across traditions among Muslims and Christians.
- ✓ Goal 8: ethical judgment and action. This course provides “grounded foundation for ethical judgment and action [that] derives from a deep, historically informed examination of the beliefs and values deeply embedded in our views and experience.”

TEXTS

Required Textbooks Available at the Bookstore

Borg, Marcus. Ed. *Jesus at 2000*. Boulder, Colorado : Westview Press, 1998.

Chandler, Paul-Gordon. *Pilgrims of Christ on the Muslim Road: Exploring a New Path between Two Faiths*. Plymouth, United Kingdom: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2008

Cragg, Kenneth. *Jesus and the Muslim: An Exploration*. Oxford; Boston: Oneworld Publications, 1999.

Khalidi, Tarif. *The Muslim Jesus: Sayings and Stories in Islamic Literature*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001.

McAuliffe, Jane Dammen. *Qur’anic Christians: An Analysis of Classical and Modern Exegesis*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1991.

Parrinder, Edward Geoffrey. *Jesus in the Quran*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1977.

Articles and Suggested Books:

Aland, Kurt. Ed. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels*. Stuttgart: German Bible Society, 1989.

Dunn, James D. G. *The Evidence for Jesus*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1985.

Maqsood, Ruqaiyyah Waris. *The Mysteries of Jesus: A Muslim Study of the Origins and Doctrines of the Christian Church*. Oxford: Sakina, 2000.

Mark N. Swanson. “The Trinity in Christian-Muslim Conversation.” *Dialogue: A Journal of Theology*. Volume 44, Issue 3 (September 2005), pp. 256–263. *)

_____. “Beyond Prooftexting: Approaches to the Qur’ān in Some Early Arabic Christian Apologies.” *The Muslim World*. Volume 88, Issue 3-4 (October 1998), pp. 297–319. *)

Nurbakhsh, Javad. *Jesus in the Eyes of the Sufis*. London: Khaniqahi-Nimatullahi Publications, 1983.

O’Connor, Kathleen Malone. “Islamic Jesus.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. Vol. 66, No. 3 (Autumn, 1998), pp. 493-532. *)

Omar, Irfan A. *A Muslim View of Christianity: Essays on Dialogue by Mahmoud Ayoub*. New York: Orbis, 2007.

- Räisänen, Hekki. "The Portrait of Jesus in the Qurʾān: Reflections of a Biblical Scholar." *The Muslim World*. Volume 70, Issue 2 (April 1980), pages 122–133. *)
- Robinson, Neal. *Christ in Islam and Christianity: The Representation of Jesus in the Qurʾan and the Classical Muslim Commentaries*. London : Macmillan, 1991.
- Schimmel, Annemarie; and Falaturi, Abdoldjavad. *We Believe in One God: The Experience of God in Christianity and Islam*. London: Burns & Oates, 1979.
- Schumann, Olaf H. *Jesus the Messiah in Muslim Thought*. Delhi: ISPCK/HMI, 2002.
- Smail, Balic. "The Image of Jesus in Contemporary Islamic Theology." In Schimmel, Annemarie; and Falaturi, Abdoldjavad. Eds. *We Believe in One God: The Experience of God in Christianity and Islam*. London: Burns & Oates, 1979. *)
- Swanson, Mark N. "Beyond Proof-texting: Approaches to the Qurʾān in Some Early Arabic Christian Apologies." *The Muslim World*. Volume 88, Issue 3-4 (October 1998), pp. 297–319. *)
- _____. "The Trinity in Christian-Muslim Conversation." *Dialogue: A Journal of Theology*. Volume 44, Issue 3 (September 2005), pp. 256–263. *)

Movie: *The Passion of the Christ*.

*) All texts with an asterisk are available on Blackboard.

MOVIE NIGHT

The class requires students to meet on Thursday, September 22, 2011 at 7:00-9:00 PM (outside of the regular class time) to watch Mel Gibson's movie, *The Passion of the Christ*.

GRADING FORMAT

1. Group presentations: 10 points; Students will get involved in collaborative work by distributing responsibilities in group discussion and preparing a coherent materials for class presentations. The groups should electronically submit their presentation materials in Power Point at least two days before the presentation.
2. Mid-term exam: 15 points; The exam questions will be in three formats:
 - ✓ Names, simple terms, and concepts;
 - ✓ Short answers;
 - ✓ Outlines for argumentative essays;
3. Review: 5 points; Students will review the monograph of Javad Nurbakhsh's *Jesus in the Eyes of the Sufis*. The review should be 4-5 pages long.
4. Take-home final exam: 20 points; The exam questions will be in two formats:
 - ✓ Outlines for argumentative essays;
 - ✓ Two essays of about 750 words each.
5. Research paper of 7-10 pages long: 30 points. This assignment is divided into three parts as described below.
 - a. Proposal (5 points). The full 5 points will be automatically given to proposals (no more than two pages) that have the following elements: (1) a title, (2) a guiding question, (3) a thesis statement, (4) a list of arguments, (5) a list of counter-arguments and the response to each counter-argument, (6) a list of bibliography containing of at least five books and five articles from refereed journals (the list should be written in *Chicago Manual of Style* format);

- b. Draft (5 points). The full 5 points will be automatically given to drafts elaborated based on the proposal and have the following elements: (1) a minimum page requirement of 8 pages, (2) a minimum number of references of five books and five articles cited in the paper, (3) a proper use of references written in *Chicago Manual of Style* format. The draft of research will be peer reviewed.
 - c. Final research paper (20 points). The 20 points will be given to papers that satisfy the following requirements: (1) minimum requirements for the draft as indicated above, and (2) objective, logical, and cohesive arguments.
6. Participation: 20 points.
- ✓ 16-20 points: those who read materials and demonstrate their readings in their questions, answers, comments, quiz or in-class writing and class discussions in every class. In addition to understanding the author's thesis and arguments, students also understand the author's assumptions under which the arguments are made. Such students challenge the author's view on the subject matter.
 - ✓ 10-15 points: those who read materials and sometimes demonstrate their readings in their questions, answers, comments, quiz or in-class writing and class discussions.
 - ✓ 5-9 points: those whose questions, answers, comments, quiz or in-class writing and class participation do not reflect that they read the materials.
 - ✓ 0-4 points: those who disrupt class activities or those who never or sometimes participate but their participations do not reflect that they read the materials.

PAPER SUBMISSIONS

Some assignments will be posted on Blackboard. Students are encouraged to work collaboratively with resources available, read each other's draft, and consult Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL). Students should contact the instructor if there is any concern on writing the book review and argumentative essays. Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments should be electronically submitted through Blackboard's assignment page by the indicated dates. If for some reason there is a problem with electronic submission on Blackboard, the assignment should be sent via e-mail attachment or a printed copy of the paper should be submitted to the instructor's office on the same day. Late submissions will be downgraded for that specific assignment up to one point per day.

FINAL GRADE

Students will accumulate the points—there will be no conversion of points into grades—until the end of the semester. Below is the table of point conversion for the final grade:

Points	Final Grade	4-point conversion
94-100	A	4
90-93	A-	3.7
87-89	B+	3.3
84-86	B	3
80-83	B-	2.7
77-79	C+	2.3
74-76	C	2
70-73	C-	1.7

67-69	D+	1.3
64-66	D	1
60-63	D-	0.7
0-59	F	0

CLASS POLICIES

Academic Honesty

Students are required to honor academic integrity. A violation of academic integrity, such as cheating in quizzes or exams and plagiarism, could result in failure in the course and could be reported to the Dean's office and the Committee on Standard for further actions. For more information on academic integrity, consult *HWS' Handbook of Community Standards* (2010-2011), 24-27.

Attendance and Extra Credits

Students are encouraged to attend all scheduled meetings for this course. An extra credit of 5 points will be awarded to those who have complete attendance. Students have the liberty to miss three classes without penalty. They may opt to miss more than three classes with the consequence of losing one point of the total grade for each missed meeting after the three absences, unless they provide the instructor with a justified reason(s) in writing and verification from the Dean's office, the Counseling Center and/or other related office(s).

Up to a 2-point credit will be given to those who fulfill one of these: (1) attend and ask questions in an on-campus lecture or other activities related to the portrayal of Islam/Muslims of Jesus and their followers and write a two-page response paper on the subject discussed, (2) publish an article on Islam/Muslims' perception of Jesus. Throughout the semester, students may accumulate extra credits of up to 5 points.

Laptop Computers and Cell Phones

Students are expected to fully engage in class activities. The use of laptops for non-teaching related activities is strictly prohibited. To get full participation of the class, students have to close their laptops during discussion. Students with laptops should sit in front rows. Since the use of cell phones often causes class disruption, cell phones have to be turned off during class time.

About the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL):

At Hobart and William Smith Colleges, we encourage students to seek the academic collaboration and resources that will enable them to do their best work. The CTL offers a variety of resources that can help students achieve academic success, including Teaching Fellows (for course content help in the departments of Anthropology/Sociology, Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Geoscience, Philosophy, Physics, Psychology, Spanish & Hispanic Studies), Writing Colleagues (for help on papers), Study Mentors (for help with study skills and time management), Group Study Tables (for content help in specific courses), and more.

The CTL resources most useful for this class include making preparation for effective presentation and guiding students to write research paper. For more information on these resources, visit the CTL webpage at <http://www.hws.edu/academics/ctl/index.aspx>, or visit the CTL Blackboard site.

Disability Accommodations

If you are a student with a disability for which you may need accommodations, you should self-identify and register for services with the Coordinator of Disability Services at the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), and provide documentation of your disability. Disability related accommodations and services generally will not be provided until the registration and documentation process is complete. The guidelines for documenting disabilities can be found at the following website: <http://www.hws.edu/disabilities>

Please direct questions about this process or Disability Services at HWS to David Silver, Coordinator of *Disability* Services, at silver@hws.edu or x3351.

SCHEDULE

No	Date	Topic and Reading	Assignment
1	8/29 (M)	Introduction [Reading: Syllabus]	
2	8/31 (W)	Christian Background 1 [Borg, <i>Jesus at 2000</i> , ch 8]	
3	9/2 (F)	Christian Background 2 [Borg, <i>Jesus at 2000</i> , ch 1]	
4	9/5 (M)	Christian Background 3 [Borg, <i>Jesus at 2000</i> , ch 2]	
5	9/7 (W)	Christian Background 4 [Borg, <i>Jesus at 2000</i> , ch 3]	
6	9/9 (F)	Christian Background 5 [Borg, <i>Jesus at 2000</i> , ch 4]	
7	9/12 (M)	Christian Background 6 [Borg, <i>Jesus at 2000</i> : Group A, ch 5; Group B, ch 6; Group C, ch 7]	Group Presentations 1
8	9/14 (W)	Arabian Background [Cragg, <i>Jesus and the Muslim</i> , 1-16]	
9	9/16 (F)	Qur'anic Portrayal of Jesus 1 [Parrinder, <i>Jesus in the Qur'an</i> , 1-29]	
10	9/19 (M)	Qur'anic Portrayal of Jesus 2 [Parrinder, <i>Jesus in the Qur'an</i> , 30-66]	
11	9/21 (W)	Qur'anic Portrayal of Jesus 3 [Parrinder, <i>Jesus in the Qur'an</i> , 67-91]	
12	9/23 (F)	Qur'anic Portrayal of Jesus 4 [Parrinder, <i>Jesus in the Qur'an</i> , 92-125]	
13	9/26 (M)	Qur'anic Portrayal of Jesus 5 [Parrinder, <i>Jesus in the Qur'an</i> , 126-151]	
14	9/28 (W)	Qur'anic Portrayal of Jesus 6 [Parrinder, <i>Jesus in the Qur'an</i> , 152-174]	Proposal
15	9/30 (F)	Qur'anic Portrayal of Jesus 7 [Räsänen. "The Portrait of Jesus in the Qur'an," 122-133 and Cragg, <i>Jesus and the Muslim</i> , 17-40]	
16	10/3 (M)	Qur'an on Jesus' Followers 1 [McAuliffe, <i>Qur'anic Christians</i> , 93-128]	
17	10/5 (W)	Qur'an on Jesus' Followers 2 [McAuliffe, <i>Qur'anic Christians</i> , 129-159]	
18	10/7 (F)	Qur'an on Jesus' Followers 3 [McAuliffe, <i>Qur'anic Christians</i> , 160-179]	
	10/10 (M)	Fall Break (October 8-11)	

19	10/12 (W)	Qur'an on Jesus' Followers 4 [McAuliffe, <i>Qur'anic Christians</i> , 180-203]	
20	10/14 (F)	Qur'an on Jesus' Followers 5 [McAuliffe, <i>Qur'anic Christians</i> , 204-239]	
21	10/17 (M)	Qur'an on Jesus' Followers 6 [McAuliffe, <i>Qur'anic Christians</i> , 240-259]	Mid-Term
22	10/19 (W)	Qur'an on Jesus' Followers 7 [McAuliffe, <i>Qur'anic Christians</i> , 260-292]	
23	10/21 (F)	Jesus in African American experience [O'Connor, "Islamic Jesus" 493-532]	
24	10/24 (M)	Jesus in Muslim Gospel 1 [Khalidi, <i>The Muslim Jesus</i> , 3-45]	
25	10/26 (W)	Jesus in Muslim Gospel 2 [Group A, Sayings 1-97; Group B, Sayings 98-187; Group C, Sayings 188-303]	Group Presentations 2
26	10/28 (F)	Jesus and Muslims 1 [Cragg, <i>Jesus and the Muslim</i> , 41-74]	
27	10/31 (M)	Jesus and Muslims 2 [Cragg, <i>Jesus and the Muslim</i> , 75-124]	
28	11/2 (W)	Jesus and Muslims 3 [Cragg, <i>Jesus and the Muslim</i> , 125-165]	
29	11/4 (F)	Jesus and Muslims 4 [Cragg, <i>Jesus and the Muslim</i> , 166-209]	
30	11/7 (M)	Jesus and Muslims 5 [Cragg, <i>Jesus and the Muslim</i> , 210-233]	Research Paper: Draft
31	11/9 (W)	Jesus and Muslims 6 [Cragg, <i>Jesus and the Muslim</i> , 234-259]	
32	11/11 (F)	Jesus and Muslims 7 [Cragg, <i>Jesus and the Muslim</i> , 260-276; 277-301]	
33	11/14 (M)	Response to Qur'anic Jesus 1 [Balic, "The Image of Jesus in Contemporary Islamic Theology," 1-8 and Swanson, "Beyond Proof-texting: Approaches to the Qur'an in Some Early Arabic Christian Apologies," 297-319]	
34	11/16 (W)	Jesus in Christian-Muslim Relation 1 [Chandler, <i>Pilgrims of Christ on the Muslim Road</i> , 1-24]	
35	11/18 (F)	Jesus in Christian-Muslim Relation 2 [Chandler, <i>Pilgrims of Christ on the Muslim Road</i> , 25-48]	
36	11/21 (M)	Jesus in Christian-Muslim Relation 3 [Chandler, <i>Pilgrims of Christ on the Muslim Road</i> , 49-70]	
	11/23 (W)	Thanksgiving Break (November 23-27)	
	11/25 (F)	Thanksgiving Break (November 23-27)	
37	11/28 (M)	Jesus in Christian-Muslim Relation 4 [Chandler, <i>Pilgrims of Christ on the Muslim Road</i> , 73-99]	
38	11/30 (W)	Jesus in Christian-Muslim Relation 5 [Chandler, <i>Pilgrims of Christ on the Muslim Road</i> , 101-123]	Research Paper: Final Submission
39	12/2 (F)	Jesus in Christian-Muslim Relation 6 [Chandler,	

		<i>Pilgrims of Christ on the Muslim Road, 127-146</i>	
40	12/5 (M)	Jesus in Christian-Muslim Relation 7 [Chandler, <i>Pilgrims of Christ on the Muslim Road, 147-174</i>]	
41	12/7 (W)	Jesus in Christian-Muslim Relation 8 [Chandler, <i>Pilgrims of Christ on the Muslim Road, 175-206</i>]	
42	12/9 (F)	Concluding Remarks	
	12/14 (W)	Final Exam: Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at 8:30-11:30 AM	