



EM415/615 Christian Ministry in Islamic Contexts

QUEENSLAND THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

About this Unit Outline

This unit outline contains information essential to finding your way around the unit **Christian Ministry in Islamic Contexts**. It provides a structure for your learning, giving details of lecture topics, assessment requirements, and key resources.

UNIT OUTLINE **SEMESTER 2 2016**

Important notice

While every care has been taken to ensure accuracy in the information given below, **it is the personal responsibility of each student to check the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook**, copies of which may be found in the Library or online at www.acttheology.edu.au

It is very important that students plan their time carefully to ensure that reading and especially assignments receive adequate attention and so as to prevent a bottleneck of work at the end of the semester.

It is very important that all quoted material in assignments be properly footnoted and acknowledged. The attention of students is drawn to the section in the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook, headed "**Academic Misconduct**". Failure to comply with the standards required will incur penalties as outlined in the ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook.

The attention of students is also drawn to the section in the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook, headed "**Guidelines for Essays.**" (see also the QTC Student Handbook) All essays should comply with these standards.

Information about this unit

Unit description

Understanding and engaging with Islam is clearly one of the greatest social and missional challenges the church faces at present. Muslim communities are growing in Australia and we see the impact of radical Islam around the world.

In this unit we will explore the many different ways Christians are seeking to engage positively with Muslims in their local communities, as well as across the world. Issues of culture and contextualisation will also be reviewed. This is a must for contemporary Christians.

This unit helps Christians understand the history of Islam and the range of interpretations of Islam across the various Muslim groups. We will review biblical and theological perspectives on Islam and look at Christian-Muslim worldview comparisons.

Learning outcomes

EM415 Learning Outcomes:

Know and understand

- Islamic faith and practice, especially from a Christian perspective
- The diversity of Muslim world views and practice in the contemporary world
- The contemporary interface of Christianity and Islam

Be able to

- Discuss Islamic faith and practice from a Christian standpoint
- Analyse contemporary trends in Islam
- Evaluate forms of Christian witness among Muslim people
- Assess the spiritual and socio-cultural factors in the growth of Christianity in Islamic contexts

Be in a position to

- Integrate perspectives from 'Christian Ministry in Islamic Contexts' with their other theological and ministry studies
- Engage in Christian ministry in Islamic contexts as a reflective practitioner

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Know and understand

- Islamic faith and practice, especially from a Christian perspective
- The diversity of Muslim world views and practice in the contemporary world
- The contemporary interface of Christianity and Islam
- Selected approaches to Christian ministry in Islamic contexts

Be able to

- Discuss Islamic faith and practice from a Christian standpoint
- Analyse contemporary trends in Islam
- Evaluate forms of Christian witness among Muslim people
- Assess the spiritual and socio-cultural factors in the growth of Christianity in Islamic contexts
- Evaluate selected approaches to Christian ministry in Islamic contexts

Be in a position to

- Integrate perspectives from 'Christian Ministry in Islamic Contexts' with their other theological and ministry studies
- Engage in Christian ministry in Islamic contexts as a reflective practitioner

How this Unit Contributes to the Course

No matter which course you are studying or whether your study pathway leads towards becoming a Minister, an overseas Mission worker, a Youth and Children's Worker, School Chaplain, Women's Ministry worker or another role in your local context or workplace, this unit aims to help you consider how you might appropriately minister and effectively engage those around you who have embraced Islam.

This unit is an elective unit which caters for students studying for the following accredited courses:

- EM415 Bachelor of Theology, Bachelor of Ministry, Associate Degree of Theology, Diploma of Theology or Diploma of Ministry.
- EM615 Master of Divinity, Graduate Diploma of Divinity or Graduate Certificate of Divinity.

Pre-requisites and Co-requisites

There are no pre-requisites for this course

How this unit is organized & what we expect of you

LECTURE TIMES: The unit will be taught on four pairs of Thursdays and Fridays.

Thursday **04** and Friday **05 August**

Thursday **15** and Friday **16 September**

Thursday **13** and Friday **14 October**

Thursday **20** and Friday **21 October**

Teaching Hours:

Thursdays: 11.45am – 12.35pm. 1.25m – 4.15pm

Fridays: 9.30am – 10.20am; 10.45am – 12.35pm; 1.25pm – 4.15pm.

LECTURE CONTENT: The Unit Timetable on Page 6 of this unit outline lists which aspects of *Christian Ministry in Islamic Contexts* are being dealt with in each lecture. A lecture outline will be handed out, but students are expected to take notes from the lectures and required reading.

This unit is worth 4 credit points (cp) towards your degree. At Bachelor level, a 4 cp unit is considered to require a total time commitment of 6-8 hours per week throughout the semester, and 7-9 hours at MDiv level. Please speak with the Lecturer or Registrar as a matter of urgency if you are finding that you consistently need to spend more time than this on EM415/615.

Students are expected to attend all lectures, complete any set pre-reading and complete any assessment tasks by the relevant due date. Please do be in touch as soon as you can if you anticipate having any difficulties with your assessments or with meeting the due date.

Note: Assignments submitted late and without an extension granted will incur late penalties (please refer to the QTC Student Handbook). Full attendance at lectures is required for all units in the ACT; repeated absences without reason and permission may result in application of the ACT's policy that your final assessment for this unit will not be marked, resulting in failure of this unit.

Teaching staff

LECTURER

Rev Dr Richard Shumack

Research Fellow, Centre for Public Christianity, Sydney.

E: rshumack@qtc.edu.au

Other Key Contacts

Registrar's office

Contact the Registrar's office for any queries about which unit to enrol in next, if you wish to change your enrolment, defer due to illness, family circumstances etc., or request an extension for your assessment (criteria apply).

P 07 3871 9348

E registrar@qtc.edu.au

Moodle functions and queries

Contact the Registrar or the Assistant Registrar for help if something on Moodle is not working, if you need help using Moodle etc.

P 07 3871 9348

E registrar@qtc.edu.au

Library/Resources

Contact the Librarian for help with finding full-text articles, to request a chapter of a book or article emailed to you, to request a book posted to you, for help with logging into the library databases and catalogue, for help with how to renew a book for longer

P 07 3871 9346E

library@qtc.edu.au

Unit timetable: topics & teaching & learning activities

| | Lecture topics | Reading list |
|--|--|--|
| Thursday 04 Aug 11.45am – 4.15pm | Theological Perspectives on Islam: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biblical theology of Islam • Muslim beliefs and practices • Muslim worldviews | Guillame/Is'haq, <i>The Life of Muhammad</i> Rippin, <i>Muslims</i> Volf, <i>Allah</i> Durie, <i>Revelation</i> Netland, <i>Encountering religious pluralism</i> |
| Friday 05 Aug 9.30am – 4.15pm | History and Varieties of Islam: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of Islam • Islamic Modernism • Folk Islam • Liberal Islam • Sufism | Nasr, <i>The Heart of Islam</i> Akhtar, <i>A Faith for All Seasons</i> Al-Qaradawi, youtube |
| Thursday 15 Sept 11.45am – 4.15pm | Contemporary Islam: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salafism • Pan-national Islamism • Key Muslim thinkers • Islam on line | Ramadan, <i>What I Believe</i> Soroush, <i>Islam and Pluralism</i> <i>Lecture</i> (at drsoroush.com) |
| Friday 16 Sept 9.30am – 4.15pm | Theology of Mission to Muslims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contextualisation • Culture or religion? • Shame & honor • Abrahamic faiths? | Lingel & Morton, <i>Chrislam</i> Parshall, <i>Muslim Evangelism</i> Azumah, <i>My Neighbour's Faith</i> Greeson, Muller, <i>The Messenger, the Message & The Community</i> |
| Thursday 13 Oct 11.45am – 4.15pm | Mission Practice in Muslim Contexts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pioneers • Insider movements • 'The least among you': case study of the Philipino approach | Chapman, <i>The Cross and the Crescent</i> Sookdeo, <i>Faith, Power and Territory</i> Medearis, <i>Muslims, Christians and Jesus</i> |
| Friday 14 Oct 9.30am – 4.15pm | Muslim Christian Apologetics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good apologetics? • Polemics vs Irenics • Historical debates • Contemporary debates | Geisler, <i>Answering Islam</i> |
| Thursday 20 Oct 11.45am – 4.15pm | Christianity in Muslim Contexts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian minorities in the Muslim world • Christian conversion among Muslims • Reversion • Persecution | Ye'or, <i>Islam and Dhimmitude</i> Greenlee, <i>From the Straight Path to the Narrow Way</i> |
| Friday 21 Oct 9.30am – 4.15pm | Islam in Australia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugees and immigration • Islam and multiculturalism • Islamization and Da'wah • Shariah and politics | Saeed, <i>Islam in Australia</i> Arkbazede, <i>Islam and the West</i> Claydon, <i>Islam Human Rights and Public Policy</i> |

These lecture topics cover the required content specified by the Australian College of Theology (ACT) in the ACT Undergraduate Handbook, and the Graduate & Postgraduate Coursework Handbook.

Pre-Lecture Reading

1. Students should read the two recommended textbooks:
 - Azumah, John Alembillah. *My Neighbour's Faith: Islam explained for African Christians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Hippo Books, 2008.
 - Muller, Roland. *The messenger, the message, the community: Three critical issues for the cross-cultural church planter*. Can: CanBooks, 2011.

EM415 Assessments

Assessments are submitted online via Moodle.

In order to pass the unit, you must submit all assessment pieces and attain a mark of at least 50% for the unit as a whole.

Late submission of assessment, without prior permission, will be taken into account in determining your mark.

Your essays must also be within 10% of the required word limit and your ability to meet this requirement will also be taken into account in determining your mark. QTC seeks to prepare you for ministry, and in ministry delivering presentations on time & within an acceptable length are essential skills.

| ASSESSMENT TASK | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
| <p>Project</p> <p>2000 words</p> <p>Worth 40% of total marks</p> | <p>A 2000 word Project.</p> <p>Interview two Muslims about life as a Muslim in Australia. Develop questions that allow them to describe their central Muslim beliefs, their understanding of Christianity, and their experience of being a Muslim in the Australian context – including the nature of their Muslim community. Include your interview questions and notes in an appendix.</p> <p>Describe your key findings (800 words) and then discuss what the interviews reveal about the Muslim worldview (1200 words).</p> |
| <p>Essay</p> <p>3000 words</p> <p>Worth 60% of total marks</p> | <p>A 3000 word Essay.</p> <p>Research and evaluate one contemporary approach to Christian ministry amongst Muslims.</p> <p>Outline the theology behind the approach, how it works in practice and the results described by those who use it.</p> <p>Drawing on the Bible and the relevant literature, discuss and evaluate this approach theologically and practically. Reflect on how you might modify or develop the approach in some particular context.</p> |

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Your essays must also be within 10% of the required word limit and your ability to meet this requirement will also be taken into account in determining your mark. QTC seeks to prepare you for ministry, and in ministry delivering presentations on time & within an acceptable length are essential skills.

| ASSESSMENT TASK(S) | DESCRIPTION |
|--|--|
| <p>Project</p> <p>2500 words</p> <p>Worth 35% of total marks</p> | <p>A 2500 word Project.</p> <p>Interview two Muslims about life as a Muslim in Australia. Develop questions that allow them to describe their central Muslim beliefs, their understanding of Christianity, and their experience of being a Muslim in the Australian context – including the nature of their Muslim community. Include your interview questions and notes in an appendix.</p> <p>Identify any significant differences between your understanding of Christianity and those of the interviewees, and indicate why these are important.</p> <p>Describe your key findings (1000 words) and then, interacting with the literature, discuss what the interviews reveal about the Muslim worldview (1500 words).</p> |
| <p>Essay</p> <p>3500 words</p> <p>Worth 55% of total marks</p> | <p>A 3500 word Essay.</p> <p>Research and evaluate one contemporary approach to Christian ministry amongst Muslims. Analyze and examine the theology behind the approach, how it works in practice and the results described by those who use it.</p> <p>Discuss and critically evaluate this approach theologically and practically, making particular reference to any critique of this approach in the literature, and its strengths and weaknesses in contrast to other approaches. Reflect on how you might modify or develop the approach in some particular context in light of your research into the critical literature on the approach in question.</p> |
| <p>Research Project</p> <p>1000 words</p> <p>Worth 10% of total marks</p> | <p>A 1000 word Research Project.</p> <p>Read and analyze one Muslim publication (of at least 200 pages) that aims to explain or promote Islam to a western audience. Describe and evaluate the approach of this work, and then outline the key features that would be required in any Christian response (1000 words).</p> |

Guide to Assessments

This information will be supplied by the Lecturer during the period of the lectures.

Learning Resources

Textbooks/ Required Reading:

Azumah, John Alembillah. *My Neighbour's Faith: Islam explained for African Christians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Hippo Books, 2008.

Muller, Roland. *The messenger, the message, the community: Three critical issues for the cross-cultural church planter*. Can: CanBooks, 2011.

Prescribed:

Akbarzadeh, S. and Yasmeen, S., *Islam and the West: Reflections from Australia*. Sydney, NSW: UNSW Press, 2005.

Akhtar, S., *A Faith for All Seasons*. Chicago, IL: Ivan R Dee, 1990.

Ahmed, A., *Discovering Islam*. London: Routledge, 2002.

Azuma, J., *My Neighbour's Faith: Islam Explained for Christians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008.

Caner, E. M. and E. F. Caner. *Unveiling Islam: An Insider's Look at Muslim Life and Beliefs* Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2002.

Catherwood, C. *Christians, Muslims and Islamic Rage*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.

Chapman, C. G. *Cross and Crescent: Responding to the Challenge of Islam*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2003.

Claydon, D. (ed.) *Islam, Human Rights and Public Policy*. Melbourne, VIC: Acorn Press, 2009.

Durie, M. *Revelation: Do We worship the Same God?* Upper Mt Gravatt, Qld: City Harvest, 2006.

Encyclopaedia of Islam, Vol. 1-11, Leiden, The Netherlands: E.J. Brill, 1986-2002.

Geisler, N. *Answering Islam*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1993.

Greenlee, D. *From the Straight Path to the Narrow Way: Journeys of Faith*. Waynesboro, GA.: Authentic Media, 2005.

Guillaume, A. & Ibn Ishaq. *The Life of Muhammad*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1967.

Husain, E., *The Islamist*. Camberwell, Vic: Penguin Books, 2007.

Lingel, J. ed. *Chrislam: How Missionaries are Promoting and Islamized Gospel* Garden Grove: i2 Ministries Publications, 2011.

Livingstone, G. *Planting Churches in Muslim Cities: A Team Approach*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2001.

Love, R., *Muslims, Magic and the Kingdom of God: Church Planting Among Folk Muslims* Pasadena, CA: William Carey, 2000.

- Mallouhi, C. *Mini-Skirts, Mothers & Muslims: a Christian Woman in a Muslim Land*. Oxford: Monarch Books, 2004.
- Manji, I., *The Trouble with Islam*. Milson's Point: RandomHouse, 2003.
- Muller, R., *Understanding Islam* (ebook from rmuller.com, 2012)
- Muller, Roland. *The messenger, the message, the community: Three critical issues for the cross-cultural church planter*. Can: CanBooks, 2011.
- Musk, B. *Touching the Soul of Islam: Sharing the Gospel in Muslim Cultures*. London: Monarch Books, 2003.
- Netland, H. *Encountering religious pluralism: The challenge to Christian faith and mission*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2001.
- Netland, H., "Evangelical missiology and theology of religions: An agenda for the future." *IJFM* 29(1): 5-12, 2012.
- Parshall, P. *Muslim Evangelism: Contemporary Approaches to Contextualization*. Waynesboro: Gabriel, 2003.
- Rippen, A. *Muslims: Their Religious Beliefs and Practices*. London: Routledge, 2005.
- Ramadan, T. *Islam the West and the Challenges of Modernity*. Leicester: The Islamic Foundation, 2001.
- Ramadan, T. *What I Believe*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- Saeed, A. *Islam in Australia*. Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2003.
- Saeed, A. *Islamic Thought: An Introduction*. Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2006.
- Saeed, A. *The Qur'an: An introduction*. Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2008.
- Shumack, R. *Witnessing to western Muslims*. London: The Latimer Trust, 2011.
- Sookhdeo, P. *Faith, Power and Territory*. McLean, VA: Isaac Publishing, 2008.
- Spencer, R. *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Islam and the Crusades*. Washington: Regnery Pub., 2005.
- Warraq, I., *Why I Am Not A Muslim*. Amherst: Prometheus Books, 2003.
- Woodberry, J. D. *Muslims and Christians on the Emmaus Road: Crucial Issues in Witness Among Muslims*. Monrovia, CA: MARC, 1989.
- Ye'or, B. *Islam and Dhimmitude*. Lancaster: Gazelle Books, 2002.

Classic:

- Cragg, K. *The Call of the Minaret*. Oxford: One World, 2000.
- Swemer, S. *The Moslem Doctrine of God*. New York: American Tract Society, 1905.

Journals:

International Journal of Frontier Mission (Online at www.ijfm.org)

St. Francis Magazine (Online at www.stfrancismagazine.info)

Zwemer Journal (Online at www.ciu.edu/muslimstudies/journal/modules/smartsection)

Muslim World

British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies

Journal of Islamic Studies

Journal of Qur'anic Studies

Contemporary Islam

Journal for Religion in Africa

Arabica: Journal of Arabic and Islamic Studies

Online resources:

www.abdullahsaeed.org

www.answering-islam.org

www.answering-christianity.com

www.tariqramadan.com

www.rmuller.com

www.carlmedearis.com

www.islam.com

www.altafsir.com

www.dr.soroush.com

www.islamonline.net

ACT Standards: Grades

Grades in assessment instruments are awarded in the following categories-

| Grade | Score | GPA |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|
| Fail (F) | 0-49% | 0 |
| Pass (P) | 50-57% | 1 |
| Pass+ (P+) | 58-64% | 1.5 |
| Credit (C) | 65-74% | 2 |
| Distinction (D) | 75-84% | 3 |
| High Distinction (HD) | 85+% | 4 |