

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Course Profile: Christians and Muslims (W-431)
Semester: Fall 2008
Class Time: Thursday, 8:00-10:50 a.m.
Instructor: Michael Shelley

Course Description

This course provides an historical overview of Christian-Muslim relations by discussing the lives and writings of significant persons against the backdrop of important events and developments, including the exploration of some of the key issues that have divided Christians and Muslims. In light of these conversations, each student will be challenged to develop a paradigm of relating that is true to her/his faith, honest with the past, open to the present and promising for the future.

Required Work

- 1) Participation in class discussions, which will be based on the assigned readings.
- 2) Each student will prepare four 2-page (double-spaced typewritten) papers in which he/she shares reflections on readings identified on the syllabus. These will be turned into the instructor after the relevant class session.
- 3) Each student will write a term paper 12-14 double-space pages in length (3000-3500 words) on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor. This can deal, for instance, with one or more important figures, or a significant event, development, or movement in the history of Christian-Muslim relations.

or

Develop a three- to four-session adult study that could be used to introduce Christian-Muslim relations in a religious (e.g., a church's Christian) education program.

Required Texts

The textbooks are subject to change due to availability.

Goddard, Hugh. *A History of Christian-Muslim Relations*. Chicago: Ivan R Dee, New Amsterdam Books, 2000.

Griffith, Sidney, *The Church in the Shadow of the Mosque*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008.

Tolan, John. *Saracens: Islam in the Medieval European Imagination*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2002.

In addition to assigned readings from the textbooks, other readings will be taken from a variety of sources, such as articles and book chapters. These will be scanned and made available on the course Internet site.