

Interfaith Realities: Meeting Our Muslim Neighbors (SSW-610)

This course is designed to help participants begin the journey of understanding Islam and our Muslim neighbors. It intends to foster a respectful and hospitable approach to Muslims, which includes not just learning about them and their religion but from them. The course will include field trips in the Chicago area so participants can meet and converse with Muslims in their places of worship and community gathering.

The schedule for the week is still under construction. Everyone is expected to read the following texts prior to the first class session on Monday, June 23. It is recommended that you read them in the order they are given. Also, take note of writing assignment number one and its due date under “Required Written Work.”

Required Texts

Kaltner, John. *Islam: What Non-Muslims Should Know*. Fortress Press, 2003.

Smith, Jane. *Islam in America*. Columbia University Press, 1999.

McCloud, Aminah. *African American Islam*. Routledge, 1995.

Abdo, Geneive. *Mecca and Main Street: Muslim Life in America after 9/11*. Oxford University Press, 2006.

Patel, Eboo. *Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation*. Beacon Press, 2007.

The required texts can be purchased in the Augsburg Fortress Bookstore in the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, other bookstores, or from Internet vendors.

Course Requirements

- A. Attendance and active participation in class.
- B. Read all of the required texts prior to the first class session on Monday, June 23.
- C. Required Written Work

It is preferable that you submit all written work to the instructor as e-mail attachments (mshelley@lstc.edu).

- 1) Write *five* reflection papers, one on each of the five books, 650-850 words in length. Avoid merely outlining the books or summarizing their contents. Doing this will result in a lowering of your grade. The instructor wants to see how you engage with the material, as well as evidence that you have read the texts in their entirety. Among the questions to think about as you prepare these papers are: What would you like to highlight about the book in question? What new learning(s) did you gain from it? Were there any surprises? In what ways has your previous understanding of Islam and Muslims been challenged, affirmed or modified? Are there any particular presuppositions and conclusions in the text that you would question? Why?

These reflection papers are due on the first day of class (June 23). They will not be accepted after this date.

- 2) Research Paper or Adult Study

Whether you choose to do a research paper or an adult study, you are expected to document it properly. That is, use footnotes or endnotes to identify your sources, and include a bibliography at the end. For formatting of notes and bibliography, use either the 6th or 7th edition of Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*.

M.A. and M.Div. Students

Choose *one* of the following:

- a) Write a research paper on a topic agreed upon between you and the instructor, 12-14 double-spaced pages in length (3500-4000 words). The paper must be on a topic that falls within the scope of the course. Submit a proposal (1-2 pages in length) to the instructor for review, approval, possible redirection, and bibliographic suggestions. Your proposal should provide justification for your topic (why it is important to you), a working bibliography, and an outline (your course of argument). The proposal should be submitted by July 7, 2008. The paper is due on August 18, 2008.

- b) Prepare a three to four-session adult study introducing the religion of Islam, which you could use in a religious (for instance, a church's Christian) education program. You should include a description of the context of the study (whether real or imagined), goals of the study, a reading list, and websites that participants could visit. It is acceptable to outline the study, but it should be a detailed outline. The study should be comparable in word-length to the term paper described in paragraph (a) above. Submit a proposal (1-2 pages in length) to the instructor by July 7, 2008, which outlines how you will organize the study. This will give the instructor an opportunity to offer some initial feedback. The study is due on August 18, 2008.

D.Min. Students

Choose *one* of the following:

- a) Write a research paper on a topic agreed upon between you and the instructor, 20-22 double-spaced pages in length (5500-6000 words). The paper must be on a topic that falls within the scope of the course. Submit a proposal (1-2 pages in length) to the instructor for review, approval, possible redirection, and bibliographic suggestions. Your proposal should provide justification for your topic (why it is important to you), a working bibliography, and an outline (your course of argument). The proposal should be submitted by July 7, 2008. The paper is due on August 18, 2008.
- c) Prepare a three to four-session adult study introducing the religion of Islam, which you could use in a religious (for instance, a church's Christian) education program. You should include a description of the context of the study (whether real or imagined), goals of the study, a reading list, and websites that participants could visit. It is acceptable to outline the study, but it should be a detailed outline. The study should be comparable in word-length to the term paper described in paragraph (a) above. Submit a proposal (1-2 pages in length) to the instructor by July 7, 2008, which outlines how you will organize the study. This will give the instructor an opportunity to offer some initial feedback. The study is due on August 18, 2008.

Grading

The final grade will be calculated on the following percentages:

Reflection Papers	40%
Research Paper or Adult Study	45%
Participation in Class Discussions	15%

The instructor will give numerical grades on assignments and calculate the letter grade for the course using the following numerical scale.

A	93-100	C-	70-72
A-	90-92	D+	67-69
B+	87-89	D	63-66
B	83-86	D-	60-62
B-	80-82	F	below 60
C+	77-79		
C	73-76		

You are urged to familiarize yourself with the section of the *LSTC Student Handbook 2007-2008*, which describes “Expectations for Classroom Teaching and Learning,” especially pages 105-111. In addition to academic matters, this section includes paragraphs outlining institutional and student responsibilities concerning students living with disabilities (pp. 109-111).