Essential Information
Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available in the Essential Information section at http://support.nts.edu.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose Degree Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS textbook information
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- Handbook for Inclusive Language

Instructor Information
Professor: Harold E. Raser, PhD
Email: heraser@nts.edu
Office: (816) 268-5489
Office Hours: Monday, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. and Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or by appointment

Catalog Description
An introduction to Islam, with special attention given to its interaction with Christianity from the time of its earliest formation to the present.

Course Narrative & Rationale
This course is designed as an introduction to Islam, with special attention given to its interaction with Christianity from the time of its earliest formation to the present. A variety of topics are examined. Among these are: the historical context in which Islam originated; Muhammad, the man, his message, his role as “Messenger,” founder and leader of a new religious community; the internal development and geographic expansion of Islam following the death of Muhammad; the major beliefs and practices of Islam; Muslim-Christian relations through the centuries, including contemporary Muslim-Christian dialogue and issues connected with Christian witness to Muslims; and challenges and problems
raised for Islam today by its unavoidable encounter with “modernity” and “postmodernity.”

In addition to learning about Islam, students also gain first-hand acquaintance with Muslim scripture (Qur’an), meet and talk with Muslims, and experience Muslim worship.

**Degree Objectives**
The course specifically addresses the goals and objectives of each of the NTS degree programs, which call for students to develop understanding of the multiple cultural contexts in which Christian witness and ministry takes place today:

**A. M.Div.**
5. Understanding of local and global diversity through the investigation of cultural contexts, the enable the Church to proclaim effectively and to embody the mission of God, exhibited in the following outcomes/ the student/graduate will:
   c. Exegete aspects of society including ethnicity and culture.
   d. Navigate the complexities of globalization expressed through pluralism, world religions, and other issues.

**B. MACFD**
3. A discernment of the various developmental aspects and cultural contexts that influence people in their growth along the life course, in order to design appropriate ministry strategies that form persons into ongoing faithful disciples . .

**C. MAICS**
2. Articulation of the biblical-theological understandings of the “missio Dei” in ways that assists the church’s response to God’s call to participate in that mission . . .
   d. Recognize ways in which the missio Dei requires the church to consider the various cultural contexts
3. Understanding of the factors that constitute the contexts in which the church participates in the missio Dei . . .
   e. Explore respectful ways of engaging multi-faith and non-faith contexts.

**D. MA (Theological Studies)**
3. Ability to use the theological disciplines to reflect on and engage the world as informed, thinking, Christian persons . . .

**Course Outcomes**
1. Students will become acquainted with the major ideas and themes of the Qur’an (demonstrated mainly through the reading the entire Qur’an in English translation and keeping – and presenting to the professor periodically for evaluation and feedback – a journal of one’s thoughts, observations, insights, and questions concerning the reading)
2. Students will become familiar with the essential beliefs and practices of Muslims (demonstrated through examinations, keeping of a Qur’an journal, and informed participation in class discussion).
3. Students will acquire knowledge of the broad outline of the history of Islam (demonstrated through examinations, and informed participation in class discussion).
4. Students will develop an awareness of some of the major internal and external challenges and issues facing Islam today (demonstrated through examinations, informed participation in class discussion, and participation in a group research/report project).
5. Students will gain insight into some of the main developments and issues involved in both Christian-Muslim dialogue and Christian witness to Muslims (demonstrated through examinations, informed participation in class discussion, participation in a group research/report project, and participation in actual dialogue with individual Muslims and groups of Muslims).
6. Students will acquire resources to relate to Muslims and Islam in an informed and responsible manner and to witness to Christ before Muslims wisely and “Christianly” (foundations of this are demonstrated through all assigned work in the course; fruition of this can be demonstrated only in future ministry over time).

**Required Texts & Course Materials**

6. **ARTICLES** (available on NTS MOODLE)

**Course Outline**

I. Historical Context for the Rise of Islam  
II. Muhammad and the Qur’an  
III. The Muslim Community (“Ummah”): Belief and Practice  
IV. The Islamic *Ummah* and the Growth and Spread of Empire  
V. “Orthodoxy” and Dissent within the Islamic *Ummah*  
VI. Contemporary Islam: Issues and Challenges – and Christian-Muslim Relations

**Course Assignments & Requirements**

1. Regular attendance and consistent participation in class discussion and other learning activities. Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be prepared to fully participate in class activities – especially scheduled class discussion of assigned reading (see the “Course Calendar” portion of the syllabus). Students that miss more than 20% of classes, or who are consistently
poorly prepared for class discussion may have their final grade in the class significantly reduced (Course outcomes 1-6).

2. Reasonable mastery of material presented in assigned reading or through the professor’s classroom presentations/lectures, or other learning activities – to be evaluated by the professor through written examinations (there will be two exams – a mid-term and a final exam – both of which will include both objective and essay questions) and informed participation in classroom discussions (Course outcomes 1-6).

3. The keeping of a written notebook or journal containing notes and reflections on one’s reading in the Qur’an (see “Thoughts on Keeping the Qur’an Journal” made available by the professor for specific instructions and suggestions for completing this assignment). These journals/notebooks are to be submitted to the professor for evaluation and feedback at the times designated on the course calendar (Course outcomes 1-6, especially outcomes 1 and 2).

4. Full participation in a group research and reporting project that explores some aspect of Islam. Each student joins with 2-3 other students to research and make a presentation to the class on a topic of significance for understanding Islam and/or Muslim-Christian relations. The results of this research are submitted to the professor in some material form (e.g., PowerPoint, written report, etc.) as well as reported on orally during a class session. The final one or two class meetings are given over to oral presentations reporting on this research (course outcomes 1-6, especially outcomes 4 and 5).

5. Participation with the professor and other class members in a visit to a local Islamic mosque to observe Muslim worship and to enter into dialogue with Muslims. This occurs on a Friday afternoon (the time at which Muslims are expected to gather for corporate prayer) sometime after the middle of the semester. Specific date and time is TBD (course outcomes 1-6, especially outcome 6).

**Distribution of Student Learning Hours**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Face-to-face Class Sessions</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Participation in forums, groups, etc.</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assignments and Learning Activities</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams &amp; Quizzes</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Method for Submitting Assignments**

All written assignments (primarily Qur’an journals) should be submitted on the course site on NTS MOODLE. There is a clearly-marked link for each of the class assignments where completed work may be posted, and accessed by the professor. All written assignments are due by 11:55 p.m. (Central time) of the day on which the assignment is due.
Form and Style Expectations
There is no mandatory “style sheet” for this class. Students, are, however, expected to consistently follow one of the standard forms for theses and term papers. The most current Turabian style manual is always an excellent choice. Qur’an journals are not required to be written in any particular “style” – it is understood that they will consist of a collection of comments, reactions, questions, etc.

Inclusive Language
NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings. All written work presented to meet course requirements must use gender inclusive language.

Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams
As stated above, all assigned written work is to be submitted on the course site on NTS MOODLE no later than 11:55 p.m. (Central Time) of the day on which the assignment is due. Late work is reduced ½ letter grade for every three days (or portion thereof) overdue. Missed exams may not be made up at another time unless arrangements are made in advance with the professor, and for an exceptionally urgent reason.

Course Grading
For all written work, the following criteria are employed in evaluation and grading: 1) “A” quality work – is superior in every way – writing is clear, essentially without error in syntax, grammar, spelling, word usage, etc. – content evidences very careful reflection, insight, and original thought; 2) “B” quality work – is above average – writing is generally clear, with few errors in syntax, grammar, spelling, word usage, etc. – content gives evidence of careful preparation and meets the minimum expectations of the assignment; 3) “C” quality work – average – writing is adequate, but may have errors – content is adequate – meets the minimum expectations of the assignment, but lacks insight and originality; 4) “D” quality work – below average – writing is poor, marred with excessive errors – content gives evidence of lack of insight or lack of understanding of the assigned material; 5) “F” quality work – failure to do satisfactory work – work gives evidence of haste, lack of careful preparation, lack of basic understanding of the assigned material.

FINAL GRADES IN THE COURSE WILL BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING WEIGHTING OF ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Regular and consistent attendance and informed participation in class discussion and other learning activities counts 15% of the final grade.
2. Each of the written exams counts 20% of the final grade.
3. The Qur’an journal/notebook **counts 25% of the final grade.**
4. The group research/presentation project **counts 20% of the final grade.**

In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies which have been beneficial for the student in the past.

**Class Attendance**

If you must be absent because of extenuating circumstances, contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss the situation. **Students that miss more than 20% of class sessions may have their grade in the course significantly reduced.** If a student is absent four or more weeks of the semester, the professor may automatically fail the student.

Daily attendance records must be reported for those obtaining V.A. and Department of Education benefits. Students must make the professor aware if their attendance must be recorded.

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**COURSE CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 5-12</td>
<td>I. Historical Context for the Rise of Islam</td>
<td>Peters, 1-50</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Goddard, 1-18</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Lodahl, 1-43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 12-19</td>
<td>II. Muhammad and the Qur’an</td>
<td>Peters, 51-126</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Goddard, 19-33</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tayob, 1-30</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lodahl, 45-77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 19</td>
<td><strong>DISCUSSION OF READING (1)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tayob, 31-112</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Lodahl, 79-126</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
FEB. 26  QUR’AN JOURNALS DUE (surah 1-7)

Mar. 12-26  IV. The Islamic *Ummah* and the Growth and Spread of the Islamic Empire  
*Peters, 127-155*  
*Tayob, 113-137*  
*Goddard, 34-108*  
*Lodahl, 127-169*

Mar. 12  DISCUSSION OF READING (2)

Mar. 12-18  EXAM 1 AVAILABLE ON MOODLE

March 18-21  READING AND RESEARCH WEEK (NO CLASS)

MAR. 26  QUR’AN JOURNALS DUE (surah 8-28)

Apr. 2-16  V. “Orthodoxy” and Dissent within the Islamic *Ummah*  
*Peters, 156-215*  
*Lodahl, 171-207*

APR. 9  DISCUSSION OF READING (3)

Apr. 23-May 7  VI. Contemporary Islam: Issues and Challenges – and Muslim-Christian Relations  
*Peters, 273-276*  
*Tayob, 139-160*  
*Goddard, 109-99*

TUESDAY, APR. 16  QUR’AN JOURNALS DUE (surah 29-114)

TUESDAY, APR. 23  GROUP RESEARCH PROJECTS DUE

APR. 30  DISCUSSION OF READING (4)

MAY 7-13  EXAM #2 AVAILABLE ON NTS MOODLE