Understanding Islam: Faith and Practice

July 2 – July 12, 2012
Monday-Thursday, Suendam Birinci Pirim
10:00 am-12:00 pm & 1:00 pm-3:00 pm suendam@gmail.com

Course Description
This course is an introductory survey of Islam. It will cover a range of topics including the early history of the religion, its beliefs, practices, ethics, and spirituality. It will pay particular attention to Islam and Christian-Muslim relations in the United States.

Course Objectives
- Students will become familiar with a variety of sources, names, and authors relevant to the various branches of the study of Islam
- Students will gain a familiarity with a broad spectrum of Islamic terminology and deepen their insight into various aspects of Islam
- This course will help students to participate meaningfully and constructively in multi-cultural and interfaith conversations and learning

Course Requirements
Students are expected to attend all class sessions, read all the assigned materials, and participate in class discussions. Assignments are as follows:
1. Class attendance, preparation and participation – 25% of final grade
2. Pre-class reading and a review: Marston Speight’s God is One: The Way of Islam, read and bring a 2 page review of the book to the first meeting of the class – 15% of final grade
3. A presentation based on one of the assigned reading materials – 10% of final grade
4. A final research paper, 10-15 pages, relevant to the topics covered in the class, details to be worked out between student and instructor – 50% of final grade

Required Texts:

Academic Honesty:
All work turned in to the instructors is expected to be the work of the student whose name appears on the assignment. Any borrowing of the ideas or the words of others must be acknowledged by quotation marks (where appropriate) and by citation of author and source. Students unfamiliar with issues relating to academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center and should make use of the available resources at an early date, since violations of seminary policy on academic honesty can lead to a failing grade for the course.
Inclusive Language:
The use of inclusive language in course work is a policy of Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. Direct quotations from theological texts and scriptural translations do not have to be altered to conform to this policy. In your own writing, however, avoid language for people that leaves out part of the population or perpetuates stereotypes. Do not assume masculine gender when the gender of the person is unknown. When referring to God, you are encouraged to use a variety of images and metaphors. See http://www.lpts.edu/Academic_Resources/ASC/avoidinggenderbiasinlanguage.asp.

Part I: The Essentials of Islam

July 2: Introduction
Beliefs and Practices

1. Marston Speight, *God is One: The Way of Islam*

Early History of Islam
Developments of Islamic Sciences


July 3: The Qur’an
Scripture and Its Place in Muslim Life


July 5: Contemporary Islamic Thought
Ethics

2. A selection of readings from contemporary thinkers – TBD
July 9: Spirituality
Women in Islam


Part II: Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations in America

July 10: Islam in America I
Overview
Immigrant Muslim Communities


Islam in America II
African American Islam
American Shi’ism


July 11: Christian-Muslim Relations in America I
History
Challenges

2. Mahmoud Ayoub, “Towards an Islamic Christology, II: The Death of Jesus, Reality or Delusion,” *The Muslim World*, Volume 70 Issue 2, April 1980, pp. 91-121

July 12: Christian-Muslim Relations in America II
Dialogue Models
Future of Dialogue


Conclusion