The interpretation of Islam and Muslim encounters with Christianity has become highly politicized, ideological and controversial. Islam and Christianity are religious traditions often described as either sibling children of Abraham sharing much in common, or as part of a monolithic clash of civilizations. This course will survey the history of Christian-Muslim interactions from the 7th through the 21st centuries, giving attention to the historical and scriptural sources that speak on or about each other and their usage by Christian and Muslim interlocutors. The focus of the course will be to introduce students to the origins of the encounter, the diversity of historical contexts of the Middle East, Europe and North America, and how those encounters have been interpreted. Students will engage in historical research on specific topics to develop their own critical perspectives on Christian-Muslim Relations for public engagement.

Learning Outcomes [with respective program degree Learning Outcomes]: Students will

1. explore the origins and major themes in Christian-Muslim relationships (MAR 2, DMin 3, IC 2, PhD 1);
2. gain appreciation for the wide variety of contexts between Christians and Muslims (MAR 4, DMin 3, IC 2, PhD 1);
3. investigate a specific Christian or Muslim interlocutor and the themes of their work (MAR 4, DMin 2, IC 2, PhD 1); and
4. develop one’s own position on Christian-Muslim relationships for public engagement (MAR 1, DMin 3, IC 1, PhD 2).

Teaching and Learning Strategies:

The course will be a face to face course will utilize both lecture format and small group discussion each week. There will be an initial reflection paper, one short paper and presentation, and a final research paper chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor. In addition, students will be expected to use the learning management system of Hartford Seminary [CANVAS] to access some required reading and handouts.

Required Texts:


Reference Material to be utilized for short papers:


**Recommended reading (and DMin/PhD book reviews):**


**For students who would like background reading in the basics of Islam:**


Or  


**For students who would like background reading in the basics of Christianity:**


Or  


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date(s)</th>
<th>Course objective(s) fulfilled/Outcome(s) assessed by assignment</th>
<th>% of course grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Weekly Class preparation (required reading)</td>
<td>Each Monday Session</td>
<td>Learning Outcomes #1 and #2</td>
<td>30% (20% for DMin and PhD)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Course Assignments:

1. Read the assigned **required reading** and actively participate in class discussions (30% / 20% for DMin and PhD students).

   **Active attendance** in class is required. If you know you will be unable to attend a class session please inform the professor in advance. In the case of an absence the professor will reserve the right to ask the student for a 250-750 word written assignment on the required reading for that session.

2. Students will read and reflect critically Bennett’s book, *Understanding Christian-Muslim Relations* pages 1-14 and Mark Swanson, “Thinking Through Islam,” and write a 500-1000 word **Reflection Paper**. Students should include two of the following issues:

   a) Describe your own experience or understanding of Christian-Muslim relations using Bennett’s Confrontation-Conciliation model;

   b) Reflect critically on at least one particular interreligious issue/theme you find enlightening/interesting/challenging.

   **Papers are to be handed in at the beginning of class Monday, 17 September by 4:00 pm.** (10% of grade)

3. DMin and PhD students should write a **1,500-word critical book review** of Sidney Griffith’s *The Church in the Shadow of the Mosque* (2010), Sidney Griffith’s *The Bible in Arabic* (2008), or Heather J. Sharkey’s *A History of Muslims, Christians and Jews in the Middle East* (2017). The review should be posted on the Canvas site by **Monday, 24 September** by 4 pm.

4. Students should select one of the Christian or Muslim authors from the syllabus [*noted in brackets*] and write a 1,000 – 1,5000 word paper reviewing the following:

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Course Goals</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Reflection Paper on Bennett/Swanson</td>
<td>Monday, 17 September, 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Course Goals #1 and #4</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3: DMin and PhD students only: book review on Griffith or Sharkey</td>
<td>Monday, 24 September by 4 pm</td>
<td>Learning Outcomes #1 and #2</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Short paper and presentation on assigned Christian or Muslim author</td>
<td>Proposals for authors are due by <strong>Monday, 1 October</strong> by 4:00 pm; Presentations TBD</td>
<td>Learning Outcomes #3</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Final research paper</td>
<td>Proposals for papers are due by <strong>Monday, 26 November</strong> by 4 pm; Final submission of paper is <strong>Thursday, 20 December</strong> by 5 pm</td>
<td>Learning Outcomes #3 and #4</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
a) the historical background of the author;
b) the social-historical context in which the author lived;
c) provide an overview of the major work(s) of the author dealing with the other faith tradition (Islam or Christianity);
d) and, finally provide several guiding questions about the topics raised by the author for discussion.

On the class date assigned to that author, the student will have ONLY 10 minutes to describe the important issues of the author or topic, and propose the guiding questions, which will form the basis of the class discussion.

To prepare the paper, students should include following reference resources located in the library, where appropriate:


The paper should be posted to the CANVAS course site by the beginning of the class session when the presentation will take place. (25% of grade)

Students should email their list of top three choices of Christian or Muslim authors in the syllabus [noted in brackets below] by the end of class on 1 October at 4:00 pm. Final assignments will be made the following week.

5. Students will write one **Final Research Paper** based on a Christian or Muslim author or work, normally covered in the course. The paper should include the following items:
   a) a short biography of the author;
   b) the social/cultural context of the event/writing/topic;
   c) themes addressed in the Christian-Muslim encounter;
   d) sources utilized for information; and finally
   e) if possible, relate Bennett’s concepts of confrontation-conciliation to the topic

IPP and Certificate students should submit a 2,000-3,000 word paper; MAR 3,000-4,000; DMin 4,000-6,000; PhD 6,000-8,000. (35% of the grade)

Proposals for the research topics should be submitted to the instructor by Monday, 26 November by 4 pm. Please post your final Paper to CANVAS by Thursday, 20 December by 5 pm.
CLASS OUTLINE:

September 10: “Introduction to the Course” presentation on Canvas – NO FACE TO FACE CLASS


September 17: Christianity in Pre-Islamic Arabia/Near East

Required Reading: Goddard, 1-18; David D. Grafton, “The Identity and Witness of Arab Pre-Islamic Arab Christianity: The Arabic Language and the Bible,” *HTS: Teologiese Studie/Theological Studies* (Vol 70, No 1 (2014)).


Reflection paper on Bennett/Swanson is due at the beginning of the September 17 class at 4:00 pm.

September 24: Muḥammad’s Early Encounter with Christians


DMin and PhD students should post their critical book review on one of the Recommended Reading texts [Griffith (2008), Griffith (2010), or Sharkey (2017)] by Monday, 24 September at 4:00 pm.
October 1: Christians in the Qur’ān

**Required Reading:** Bennett, 39-63


Students should email the instructor three choices for authors they wish to present in class, by the end of class on 1 October by 4:00 pm. (The instructor will pick the one of the three for the student to review.)

October 8: The “Constitution of Medina”, early treaties, and the “Covenant of ‘Umar”

**Required Reading:** Goddard, 34-49; Karabel, 3-39.


October 15: The Coming of “the Arabs” and Christian Theological Responses

**Required Reading:** Bennett, 64-88


October 22: The ʿAbbasids, Timothy I, and the “pastoral problem”

**Required Reading:** Goddard, 50-78; Bennett, 89-113; Karabel, 40-62

[ʿAmmār al- Başrī, al- Jāḥiẓ, Theodore Abū Qurra, Abū Rāˈiṭa]

October 29: Relations in the Empires

**Required Reading:** Karabel, 63-86; 136-57


November 5: The Crusades and “alternative Crusade”

**Required Reading:** Goddard, 79-108; Bennett, 114-30; Karabell, 87-135


[Ibn ʿArabi, Francis of Assisi, Paul of Antioch, Thomas Aquinas, Nicholas of Cusa, Raymond Lull, Ricoldo de Montecroce, Al- Ṭurṭūshī, Peter the Venerable]

November 12: NO CLASS (Dr. Grafton at Conference)

Students must contact the instructor by Monday, 12 November to propose a topic for the final research paper.

November 19: NO CLASS: READING DAYS

November 26: Luther and European images of “the Terrible Turk”
Required Reading: Karabel, 158-97


[Theodore Bibliander, Joachim of Fiore, Ibn Kemal, Martin Luther, Guillaume Postel]

December 3: The Catholic and Protestant Missionary movements

Required Reading: Goddard, 109-141; Bennett, 131-62; Karabell, 198-243


[Rahmatullah al-Kairanawi, Sayyed Ahmed Khan, Hendrik Kraemer, Louis Masignon, Karl Pfander, Samuel Zwemer]

December 10: Confrontational Positions in a Post 9-11 World

Required Reading: Bennett, 163-87; Karabell, 244-85.

Recommended Reading: Answering Islam; Answering Christianity


December 17: Conciliatory Resources for “Dialog”

Required Reading: Goddard 142-198; Bennett, 14-37, 188-224; Karabell, 286-91

Recommended Reading: Nostra Aetate; WCC Guidelines for Dialogue with People of Living Faiths and Ideologies; A Common Word

[Mahmoud M. Ayoub, Ismāʾil al-Farūqī, Moḩamed Ṭalbī, Hans Küng]

Final Research Paper: The paper should be posted to the course site by Thursday, 20 December by 5 pm.
Policies and Miscellany:

Attendance: Active attendance in all classes is expected. However, if you must miss a class due to illness, family conflict or other emergency, please contact the instructor right away. The instructor may require a written assignment in lieu of attendance.

All written assignments should follow the normal conventions as in Turabian 7th ed (or later). Please include a title page on all papers more than one page, and make sure that your name is included below your name on the cover page. Number all pages. If you are turning in a hard copy and there is more than one page, please staple the pages together. The instructor reserves the right to have students re-submit an assignment for reasons of poor grammar, mistakes, or poorly written work. For those who would like assistance in how to write a proper research paper, there are a number of good guides at: http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/student-writing-resources/.

Email Policy: The instructor will use the official Hartsem student email addresses for all communications. Please check your Hartsem email account regularly.

Wikipedia and other non-documented websites: Please do not cite Wikipedia or other non-documented websites. While these sites might direct one to documented sources (in the Bibliography) their authorship is unknown and cannot be considered authoritative as academic sources. Students will be marked down for referencing these public sites if they are used as primary sources.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity: Academic honesty and integrity are expected of all students. Plagiarism exists when: a) the work submitted was done, in whole or in part, by anyone other than the one submitting the work, b) parts of the work, whether direct quotations, ideas, or data, are taken from another source without acknowledgement, or c) the whole work is copied from another source [especially a web based source]. See “Plagiarism” at http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/policies/.

Appropriate Classroom etiquette and use of technology: In order to respect the community within the classroom: 1) Please either turn off cell phones or keep them on silent during class; 2) Utilize laptops for the purpose class use. Please do not surf the web, email, or other programs for personal use during class time. Such use of the computer during class is disrespectful of the class and professor, and will result in lowering your participation grade.

Extensions: Extensions for papers will be given for illnesses or family emergencies only in consultation with the instructor.

Late Assignments/Papers: As per the Student Handbook, late assignments or papers will be marked down 1/3 of a grade for every two days.

The following evaluation process will be utilized as a guideline: (based on a 4-point system and 100% scale)
A (4.3-4.0 / 100-96) Demonstrates excellent mastery of the subject matter, a superior ability to articulate this, and provides helpful connections to daily life or contemporary issues. Exceeds expectations of the course.
A- (3.7-3.5 / 95-90) Demonstrates mastery of the subject matter, ability to articulate this well, and makes connections to daily life or contemporary issues. Exceeds expectations of the course.
B+ (3.4-3.1 / 89-86) Demonstrates a very good understanding of the subject matter, able to articulate lessons learned in the assignment well. Meets expectations of the course.
B (3.0-2.8 / 85-83) Demonstrates an understanding of the subject matter and the ability to articulate lessons learned. Meets expectations of the course.
B- (2.7-2.4 / 82-80) Demonstrates an understanding of the material at hand, has some difficulty articulating this, and basic connection of the material to daily life or contemporary issues/life. Meets basic expectations for the course.
C+ (2.3-2.1 / 79-77) Demonstrates a basic comprehension of the subject matter, weak articulation and connections. Does not meet expectations for the course.
C (2.0-1.8 / 76-73) Demonstrates a minimal comprehension of the subject matter and has difficulty making connections. Does not meet expectations of the course.
F (1.7-0.0 / 72 >) Unable to meet the basic requirements of the course.

DMin Grading Scale: High Pass (A) 4.0-3.5, Pass (B) 3.4-2.8, and Low Pass (C) 2.7-2.0.
For all other questions you might have regarding policies or procedures, please see:
http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/student-handbook/ and http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/policies/