

TEACHING QURAN IN (UU) CHURCHES
SPRING SEMESTER 2017
Instructor: Dr. Ghazala Anwar

This course is designed for seminary students or graduates who are interested in teaching an introductory course on the Quran in their local churches.

At the moment European Jewish, Christian and post-Christian scholars are approaching the Quran as a text from their own Biblical tradition. We as Westerners need to appreciate this historic moment in the history of Western engagement with the Quran before we can move to other ways/ including Muslim ways of understanding this text. Understanding of Muslim beliefs and practices is an important "side effect" of a rigorous engagement with the text of the Quran. It shall provide the student a solid basis for engaging with local Muslim communities but first the student must find her own nexus with the text and stabilize in it.

To sum: The student, and by extension the local church communities need to know the Quranic text and understand it in ways that make sense to them and then engage with local Muslim communities who also know the text and understand it in their own ways.

Appreciating the difference in the ways different communities and readers understand the Quran is where an authentic basis for dialogue and cooperation will be found.

Students registering for this course must have taken at least one course in Quranic Studies or have the equivalent in knowledge about the Quran. The students will be prepared to teach a course which has four main focus areas:

- 1) Introduction to Quranic Text
- 2) Islam & Judaism
- 3) Islam & UU/Christianity
- 4) Resources in the Sufi tradition for a "Green"(eco) Islam.

Required Texts

Quran Translations At least **one of the following** translations of the Quran

1. Laleh Bakhtiar, The Sublime Quran - a translation. USD 15.28 (Please get the Arabic English edition paperback (USD 51.28) if you can afford it and intend to keep the book).
2. M. A. S. Abdel Haleem, (translator), Qur'an, Oxford University Press, 2008, ISBN-10: 0199535957, USD 7

3. Seyyed Hossein Nasr, Caner K. Dagli, Maria Massi Dakake, Joseph E.B. Lumbard, Mohammed Rustom, The Study Quran: A New Translation and Commentary, HarperCollins Publishers, ebook USD 20

Quran.com, for multiple translations for critical study of the texts

Corpus.Quran.com, for multiple translations and basic Quranic Studies resources.

AND

1. Carl W. Ernst, How to Read the Quran: A New Guide with Select Translations, University of North Carolina Press, 2011. ISBN 978-0-8078-3516-6. USD 19.58
2. Michael Sells, Approaching the Quran: The Early Revelations, White Cloud Press, 2007, ISBN-10: 1883991692, USD 15
3. Susan Ritchie, Children of the Same God: The Historical Relationship Between Unitarianism, Judaism, and Islam, Skinner House, 2014, ISBN1558967257,
- 4) Babara Hampton, Reading Scripture Together: A Comparative Qur'an and Bible Study Guide, 2014, ISBN 978 0615956548, USD 9

Recommended Background Reading

- 5) Sunbul Ali-Karamali, The Muslim Next Door
- 6) Mohja Kahf, Girl in the Tangerine Scarf
- 7) Cheikh Hamidou Kane, Ambiguous Adventure
- 8) My Name is Red by Orhan Pamuk

Course Assignments:

Quran Journal: 40%

Please read the text of the Quran and summarize and comment on noteworthy aspects of the surahs (chapters).

Assigned Readings Journal: 30 %

Please read the required books and articles and give a brief summary of each chapter of the book while discussing what you found noteworthy and interesting.

Final Project: 30%

You will be expected to begin teaching the course that you design in class in a local church by the end of the semester and write a paper reporting and reflecting on your teaching experience.