

Below is the Syllabus from Spring 2011. Of course, there may be changes for Spring 2013.

CPRL 335 –J UDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, AND ISLAM COMPARED

Dr. Benjamin J. Hubbard

Spring 2011

Office Hours: T & W 10:30-11:30 in **UH 308** (or by appointment)

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Catalog Description: A comparative study of the three great monotheistic religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam; their beliefs, practices and traditions.

Please note: This course does not fulfill a GE requirement, but does count towards the major and minor in religious studies and the 120-unit graduation requirement.

Aims:

1. To acquire a more comprehensive understanding of each of the three principal monotheistic religions (and, to a lesser extent, a fourth monotheistic tradition, the Baha'i Faith).
2. To comprehend better both the similarities and the differences between the three.
3. To appreciate more fully both the historic and contemporary relations between the faiths, including periods both of harmony and conflict, and the current state of interfaith dialogue and cooperation. This includes the following four sets of relationships: Jewish-Christian, Jewish-Muslim, Christian-Muslim, and Jewish-Christian-Muslim.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Improved research and writing skills (including Internet research).
2. Greater ability to handle complex written material in the religion & social sciences fields, including the interpretation of primary texts.
3. Greater facility and confidence in discussing complex and sensitive religious issues in a classroom or public setting.

Textbooks (all except # 5 available at Little Professor Book Center, 725 N. Placentia Ave., Fullerton):

1. Esposito, John & Dalia Mogahed. *Who Speaks for Islam—What a Billion Muslims Really Think*
2. Levine, Amy-Jill. *The Misunderstood Jew—The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*
3. Karabell, Zachary. *Peace Be upon You—The Story of Muslim, Christian and Jewish Coexistence*
4. Abdell Haleem, M.A.S. (trans.) *The Qur'an—A New Translation* (or another modern translation).
5. Any modern, scholarly translation of the Bible. Recommended: *The Oxford Annotated Bible* (New Revised Standard Version). **Not ordered at Little Professor.**

Grading System:

1. Book review of Karabell's *Peace Be upon You*: 20% of final grade
2. Research paper: 25%
3. Mid-Term Exam: 15%

4. Answers to Study Questions (five sets each worth **five** points) total: 25%
5. Course Summary Paper: 10%
6. Class Attendance & Participation: 5%

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is essential in a seminar-style class such as this one. Anyone missing more than **three** classes without a valid excuse will receive a five-point reduction on the final grade for each additional absence. So, if you miss class for a serious reason, inform me via email within 48 hours.

Policy on Plagiarism: Copying the work of others and presenting it as one's own constitutes plagiarism, and University policies on this violation will apply. *We will discuss the correct methods of using and referencing source material in one of our class sessions.*

Policy on Late Papers:

Any assignment submitted later than the due date without a valid excuse will result in a lowering of your grade on that assignment by 5% per school day (M-F) late. However, the penalty is so modest that I strongly encourage you to submit all assignments even if late. The course summary paper, however, is due on May 18, not later.

Policy on Electronic Devices: I ask that you turn off your cell phones, iPads, iPhones Blackberries, etc.; and that you not use your laptops.

Explanation of Assignments:

1. Book review. The reviews of *Peace Be upon You* will include: (a) a concise summary of the book's main points, (b) a critique (strengths and weaknesses) of the book, (c) a statement on how well the book related to class material, and (d) a comment on what you found most valuable personally in it. Length: about three, double-spaced, typed pages (900-1,000 words, not longer; indicate word count). **Due: April 13**
2. Research Paper. The paper should be about seven to eight pages/2,100-2,400 words (indicate word count), plus a bibliography, on a topic related to the theme of the course. (A list of suggested topics will be distributed later, but you'll probably get ideas from the lectures and textbooks.) During the final class meeting, each student will present a five-minute oral summary of the paper accompanied by a one-page written summary. (*Failure to provide the written summary will result in a 10% deduction in your grade on the research paper.*) A brief discussion will follow. **Due: May 17** by 4:00 p.m. at my office. Please don't email unless there is a special circumstance.
3. Answers to Study Questions. Each Wednesday during the first part of the semester, you will receive a set of three or four study questions connected to the assigned readings that are due the following Wednesday. These should be answered clearly and succinctly in about 100 words per question (**more is definitely not better here**). They will be returned, graded, the following week. The lowest of the six grades will be dropped.
4. Course Summary Paper. In lieu of a final exam, write a two-page/600-word paper in which you summarize week by week the classes **after the mid-term exam** (i.e., March 16 to May 11), stressing which material you found most valuable and which less so. **Due: May 18** by 4:00 p.m. at my office or by email.

Please note that the study questions and some readings will be posted on Blackboard.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Jan. 26

1. Methodological Issues in the Comparative Study of Religion
2. The Common Roots of Judaism, Christianity and Islam
3. The Jewish Tradition: History, Scriptures and Practices
4. Video: "The Legacy of Abraham"

Assignment: Hubbard "Judaism" (on Blackboard), Genesis, 12-25

Feb. 2

1. Jewish Approaches to the Bible/*Tanakh*
2. Understanding Rabbinical Judaism and the Talmud
3. DVD: "The Long Search" on Talmud Study

Assignment: Levine, pp.1-17; Isaiah 42-44:8, 50-53.

Study questions # 1 due

Feb. 9

1. The Christian Tradition: History, Scriptures, Practices
2. DVD on Early Church

Assignment: Hubbard, "Christianity" (on Blackboard), Levine, pp. 18-52; Matthew's Gospel, Ch. 23 & 27; Romans Chs. 9-11

Study questions # 2 due

Feb. 16

1. Parting of the Ways between Synagogue and Church
2. DVD: "Constantine's Sword"

Assignment: John's Gospel, Ch. 8:31-59, Levine, pp. 53-118

Study questions #3 due

Feb. 23

1. Christianity as the State Religion and the Marginalization of Judaism
2. Relations between Jews and Christians up to the end of Holocaust Era

Assignment: Levine, pp. 119-66; Hubbard "Jews and Christians: A Painful and Complex History"

Study questions # 4 due

March 2

1. The Islamic Tradition: History, Scriptures, Practices
2. Relations between Muslims & Jews

Assignment: Hubbard, "Islam" (on Blackboard); Esposito, pp. ix-xv, 1-63; Qur'an Surah 1 & 2:1-148

Study questions # 5 due

March 9

1. Islam and Women (guest lecture by Prof. Zakyi Ibrahim)
2. Relations between Christians and Muslims
3. Review for Mid-Term Exam

Assignment: Esposito, pp. 65-166; Surah 19:1-63

Study questions #6 due

Ash Wednesday

March 16

Purim on March 20

1. **Mid-Term Exam** (*first half of class*)
 2. The Crusades (including excerpts from DVD “The Crusades”)
- Assignment:* Karabell, pp. 3-62

March 23

1. Crusades (contin.) and DVD excerpts from “The Crusades”
 2. Christian-Muslim Relations since World War I
- Assignment:* Karabell, pp. 63-135

March 30: SPRING BREAK

April 6

1. The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
 2. DVD: “Budrus”
- Assignment:* Karabell, pp. 136-221

April 13

1. Historical Perspectives on the Conflict
2. DVDs: “The Wall” & excerpts from “Paradise Now”
3. *Assignment:* Karabell, pp. 222-291

Book review due

April 20

Passover begins Apr. 19; Easter Apr. 24

1. Contemporary Jewish-Christian Relations
2. Jewish-Muslim Relations

April 27

Yom Ha-Shoah/Holocaust Remembr. Day May 1

1. Discussion of Research Methods and Paper Topics
2. Christian-Muslim Relations
3. “A Tale of Two Cultures—Islam & the West”: guest lecture by Prof. Mark Walia

May 4

1. The Baha’i Faith
2. DVD: “Who Speaks for Islam?”
3. Jewish-Christian-Muslim Dialogue & a Philosophy of Dialogue

May 11

Student Class Presentations

May 17: Research paper due in my office (UH-308) or dept. office (UH 313) by 4:00 p.m.
Earlier submissions are welcome.

May 18 Summary paper due in my office or via email by 4:00 p.m.