

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: **Spring 2010**
Instructors: Dr. Irfan Omar (Theo), Dr. Phillip Naylor (Hist), Dr. Richard Taylor (Phil)
Course #: THEO 4390/5390
Section: 101/101
Course Title: **Studies in Systematic Theology**
Course Subtitle: **Introduction to Islamic Studies**

Description:

Islamic Studies encompasses an array of disciplines including history, the history of ideas and science, literature, religion, diverse societies and cultures, and more. This course will be taught by Professors Irfan Omar (Theology), Phillip Naylor (History) and Richard Taylor (Philosophy) working as a team. "Introduction to Islamic Studies" will include classes on (i) Qur'an and early Islam, (ii) Science, Philosophy and Learning, (iii) Key Aspects in the History of Islam, (iv) Islamism, (v) Islam Today, and more. Grading will be based on two exams, several short writing assignments, and class participation. The course will include a field trip visit to the Milwaukee Islamic Center and a Middle Eastern dinner for students, teachers and guests from the area Muslim community. This social interaction on a very human level of students, teachers and guests from the Muslim community following the field trip is an essential element in the course.

Required texts:

Daniel W. **Brown**, *A New Introduction to Islam*. Second Edition (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009)

In addition students will be asked to select **one** of the following for their Book Report

Geneive **Abdo**, *Mecca and Main Street: Muslim Life in America after 9/11* (Oxford, 2007)

Juan **Cole**, *Engaging the Muslim World* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009)

Tariq **Ramadan**, *Radical Reform, Islamic Ethics and Liberations* (Oxford, 2009)

Several other required readings will be made available through D2L