

PUBLIC SYLLABUS
Regent University at Hertford College, Oxford University, U.K.
Summer Semester, 2008: Mon07July-Fri18July, 2008

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1. COURSE NAME: GOV646 (3hrs), LAW575 (3hrs) Biblical and Qur'anic Law: A Hermeneutical Comparison (popularly dubbed as "BiLQuL-3").

2. CLASS TIME: Meeting in the Taylor room (*Institutio Tayloriana*) of Hertford College on the Oxford University campus, 8:20am-12:20pm, for a maximum of ten 4-hour sessions (with breaks) spread over 10 days in July (2 weeks): **Mon07th, Tue08th, Wed09th** (no Hertford class session, but a mandatory all-day field trip to the British Museum and British Library, a tour of Biblical archaeological and textual authority led by Jay Smith, Christian evangelist of British Muslims), **Thu10th** (Jay Smith lectures in our Hertford class), **Fri11th** (after class some will travel in the afternoon to the Europe mainland, but other's will accompany the instructor and his wife on **Sun13th** for a voluntary field trip to All Souls Church in London, John Stott's old church, for worship and a subsequent training session to accompany Jay Smith to Speaker's Corner for a few hours, followed by a debriefing), **Mon14th, Tue15th, Wed16th, Thu17th** (Prof. Thomas Folsom on Modern Moral Realism, session 1), and **Fri18th** (Prof. Folsom on Modern Moral Realism, session 2, and final wrap-up of the course by Prof. Kickasola on his evaluation of the June course at Haifa and the July course at Oxford). On Thu31July, Joe & Myrenna Kickasola fly from Rome to Newark (NJ), then on to Norfolk (VA), and on Fri01Aug he begins grading any early papers!

3. COURSE DESCRIPTION: GOV646 (3hrs), LAW575 (3hrs) Biblical and Qur'anic Law: A Hermeneutical Comparison (1 credit hour). A course in comparative law, comparing the hermeneutics (i.e. interpretive methodologies, such as moral foundationalism vs. abrogational restrictivism, original intent vs. historical conformity, jurisdictionalism vs. hierarchicalism) of Jewish and Christian uses of the laws and legal principles in the *Bible* with the Islamic use of the laws and legal principles in the *Qur'an*. Topics to be compared in the lectures or readings include the interpretive differences in the nature of general and special revelation, the relationship between reason and faith, human rights theories, the nature of the state and civil law, the modern nation-state, democracy and constitutionalism, and selected topics on criminal and civil law, including differences on religious crimes, economic prohibitions, marriage and divorce.

4. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS (a total of four, which have already been ordered at the Regent University Bookstore [RUB], being three textbooks for assignments, and one Qur'an for reference only, to be brought to each class; each student is also to bring to each class a Bible in any version, but no Bibles have been ordered. For this three-hour Oxford course in July, 20 copies of each of the four texts have been ordered. For the one-hour BiLQuL course at Haifa in June, the **same** four texts have been ordered, but 30 in number, with fewer readings in them and shorter papers on them):

4.1 ELASS, Mateen. *Understanding the Koran: A Quick Christian Guide to the Muslim Holy Book.* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004. 192pp. Soft cover, 1st ed. ISBN-10: 0-310-24812-4, and ISBN-13: 978-0-310-24812-5.

4.2 SAEED, Abdullah. *Interpreting the Qur'an: Towards a Contemporary Approach.* New York, NY: Routledge, 2006. x+192pp. Soft cover, 1st ed. ISBN 0-415-36538-4.

4.3 POYTHRESS, Vern S. *The Shadow of the Christ in the Law of Moses*. Phillipsburg, NJ: R&R Publishing, 1991. Soft cover, 1st ed. ISBN 978-0-87552-375-0. <http://www.prpbooks.com> .

4.4 ALI, Abdullah Yusuf. *The Meaning of the Holy Qur'an*. Beltsville, MD: Amana Publications, 1999 (2002). Soft cover, 10th ed., **pocket size**, 4x6. ISBN 0-915957-77-9. If you order this from www.islamicbookstore.com , this edition is order-number **B5421**. We have dubbed Yusuf Ali as "yal."

5. ASSIGNMENTS

5.1 Attend all classes, and participate when appropriate.

5.2 Read the first three textbooks in the above sequence: Ellass, Saeed, and Poythress, but in unequal amounts. First, read all of Ellass (i.e. pp. 1-164). Second, read all of Saeed (i.e. pp. 1-158). Thirdly, read 10 of the 17 chapters in Poythress: only chapters 7, 9, and 10-17 (i.e. pp. 75-93, 119-136, and 139-286). This is a total of **507** pages of reading from textbooks. The yal Qur'an, and your own Bible, are for reference only, and these are to be brought with your textbooks to Oxford and to class.

5.3 Read the *Treatise on Law* by Thomas Aquinas (d. 1274), which is his *Summa Theologica*, Prima Secundae Partis [First Part of the Second Part], **Questions 90-108** (qq 90-97 are on Eternal Law, Natural Law, and Human Law) and qq98-108 are on Old [Testament] Law and New [Testament] Law). See <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/2.htm> for a free reading or a free download of these **175** pages, as follows (number of pages in parentheses): Table of Contents (2), q90 (5), q91 (7), q92 (3), q93 (7), q94 (8), q95 (6), q96 (7), and q97 (5); q98 (8), q99 (8), q100 (19), q101 (6), q102 (33), q103 (8), q104 (5), q105 (16), q106 (6), q107 (7), and q108 (9).

The organizational hierarchy of the *Summa* is First Part (qq1-119), **First Part of the Second Part (qq1-114)**, Second Part of the Second Part (qq1-189), the Third Part (qq1-68) and a Supplement to the Third Part (qq69-99). Under each Part or Subpart are Questions, and under each Question are Articles, and under each Article are Objections, Answer, and Replies to Objections (a heptad mnemonic is P or Sp: Qu, Ar, Ob; An, ReOb).

5.4 Read each class handout at the latest before the appropriate class session according to the instructor's class announcements. Soon after this **public** (i.e. short) syllabus is posted on the Robertson School of Government website (www.regent.edu/acad/schgov, where all of the instructor's public syllabi have always been posted), the private (i.e. full-length) syllabus will be posted in Blackboard (Bb) for all who have registered for the course, as will, eventually, be posted all of the handouts that the instructor will use in Oxford. The student need not print these out, nor bring them to Oxford, since they will be supplied as hardcopies on site in Oxford, but will be posted in Bb should the student want to read them early. The student need not bring on this trip a computer either, unless the student wants to bring one, as is true of the handouts also (including the Aquinas material under 5.3 above).

5.5 Write the following **4** reflection papers (each **double-spaced, Times New Roman 11-point font**):

5.5.1 Write a **3**-page reflection paper on the entire Ellass textbook, whose purpose is merely to give the student some Qur'anic background by means of an overview of the contents and history in the Qur'an.

5.5.2 Write a **10**-page reflection paper on the entire Saeed textbook, whose purpose is to give the student a survey of the traditionalist and the contemporary modernist-reformist hermeneutics for the laws of the Qur'an.

5.5.3 Write a **10**-page reflection paper on the assigned chapters (7, 9 and 10-17) of the Poythress textbook, whose purpose is to give the student a survey of a reformational Christian hermeneutic for the laws of the Bible.

5.5.4 Write a **2**-page reflection paper on the assigned Aquinas reading (II.1.qq90-108), whose purpose is to give the student a survey of the classical Christian reasoning regarding natural and divine law, which is an attempt to state the obvious, and to serve as an introduction to Prof. Folsom's restatement of the obvious, which modern moral realism might assist, in our context, Christians and Muslims in relearning to think, and in discovering more moral common ground between us.

6. ASSESSMENTS

The four reflection papers are the sole source of grade: the Ellass paper is worth 10%, the Saeed paper is worth 40%, the Poythress paper is worth 40%, and the Aquinas paper is worth 10%, of the total course grade. This is a total of **25** pages of required writing on **682** pages of assigned reading. All papers are due early August, 2008.

END Syllabus, Public, Oxford, GOV646 (3hrs), LAW575 (3hr), BiLQuL-3, July 2008, JNK