

PUBLIC SYLLABUS  
**Regent University at the University of Haifa, Israel**  
Summer Semester, 2008: Wed11June-Tue24June, 2008

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**1. COURSE NAME: LAW575 (1hr), GOV648 (1hr) Biblical and Qur'anic Law: A Hermeneutical Comparison** (popularly dubbed as "BiLQuL-1").

**2. CLASS TIME:** 8:00am-12:15pm, thirteen 55-minute sessions spread over 8 days in June (1½ weeks): Wed11th, Thu12th, Fri13th, Mon16th, Tue17th, Wed18th, Thu19th, and Fri20th. (Students in the 2-hour course by Profs. Robert Ash and Jay Sekulow depart Haifa for Jerusalem on Mon23rd for field trips in Israel on Tue24th through Sat28th; Sun29th the instructor departs for London to teach the same BiLQuL course at Oxford University for 3 credit hours, Mon07July-Fri18July.)

**3. COURSE DESCRIPTION: LAW575 (1 hr), GOV648 (1hr): 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 one-hour Haifa course in June, 30 copies of each of the four texts have been ordered. For the three-hour BiLQuL course at Oxford in July, the **same** four texts have been ordered, but 20 in number, with more readings in them and longer 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](http://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 five chapters of Saeed: only chapters 1, 5, 7, 10, and 11 (i.e. pp. 1-7, 57-68, 77-89, 116-125, 126-144). Thirdly, read 5 chapters of Poythress: only chapters 7, 9, 10, 11, and 17 (i.e. pp. 75-93, 119-136, 139-153, 155-163, 251-286). This is a total of **322** 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 Haifa and to class.

**5.3** 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](http://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 are registered for the course, as will, eventually, be posted all of the handouts that the instructor will use in Haifa. The student need not print these out, nor bring them to Haifa, since they will be supplied as hardcopies on site in Haifa, 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.

**5.4** Write the following **3** reflection papers (each **double-spaced, Times New Roman 11-point font**):

**5.4.1** Write a **2-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.

**5.4.2** Write a **5-page** reflection paper on the assigned chapters (1, 5, 7, 10, 11) of the 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.

**5.4.3** Write a **5-page** reflection paper on the assigned chapters (7, 9, 10, 11, 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.

## 6. ASSESSMENTS

The three reflection papers are the sole source of grade: the Ellass paper is worth 20%, the Saeed paper is worth 40%, and the Poythress paper is worth 40%, of the total course grade. This is a total of **12** pages of required writing on **322** pages of assigned reading. All papers are due in early August, 2008.

END Syllabus, Public, Haifa, LAW575 (1hr), GOV648 (1hr), BiLQuL-1, June 2008, JNK