

# Olive Tree Education



## Introduction to Islam

**Instructor:** Professor Awadh A. Binhazim  
**Time:** Saturdays: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Class Coordinator:** Kamel Daouk  
**Phone:** 615-545-4606  
**Email:** registration@olivetreeeducation.org

**Program Description:** This is an introductory program geared towards examining the textual and authoritative sources of Islam. The class will explore and examine the demographics, origin of Islam, meaning of Islam, its main sources and teachings according to the Qur'an and Sunnah, Islamic monotheism, articles of faith, pillars of Islam, the place of the prophet in Islam, historical markers of Islam, and other contemporary issues and topics of this major world religion.

**Teaching Methods:** PowerPoint lectures, class discussions, guest speaker, other audiovisual material.

**Textbook:** Various texts can be referenced. Summary notes.

### Program Outline

#### INTRODUCTION

Why study about Islam?  
How to study about Islam?  
Islam:, Semitic cultures and its peoples, orient (near east)  
Demographics  
Basic terminology

#### BASIC RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

Belief in God [Allah] and monotheism  
Statement of salvation and its conditions  
Belief in the Angels and other unseen beings  
Belief in the revealed books  
Belief in the prophets  
Purpose of life, life after death and end of the world  
The five pillars of Islam

#### EMERGENCE OF ISLAM

Jesus in Islam  
The pre-Islamic world  
The place of the Prophet in Islam  
{ Birth of Prophet Muhammad and his early life

The call to mission & Makkan response  
Migration & the Madinan period. Spread of Islam in Arabia}

### **ATHORITATIVE SOURCES OF ISLAM**

The Qur'an: revelation and preservation. Uniqueness.  
Hadeeth: meaning, authority and compilation  
Islamic Law: sources and development

### **MUSLIMS IN HISTORY**

Sunnis/Shiites  
The Golden Age of Islam  
Islam and Intellectual Thought  
Islam and the European Renaissance

### **ETHICAL, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LIFE**

Human rights  
Family Rights, Minority rights  
Women in Islam  
Political life  
Democracy and Theocracy

### **DISTORTIONS AND MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT ISLAM**

Extremism, Radicalism, Fundamentalism  
Co-existence, Tolerance, Pluralism  
Jihad and militancy

### **CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN ISLAM**

Orientalism: impact on Islam  
The current Muslim world and the raging debates  
Islam in America, Early Muslims and Islam before Columbus (if time permits)

### **References:**

1. What everyone should know about Islam and Muslims – Suzanne Haneef
2. Islam, the Natural way – AbdulWahid Hamid
3. The Islamic Roots of Democratic Pluralism - Abdulaziz Sachedina
4. Noble Quran - Muhsin Khan
5. Islam the Alternative - Murad Hofmann
6. Islam between East and West – Alijia Ali Izetbegovic
7. Family structure in Islam – Hammudah Abdalati
8. Gender Equality in Islam: Basic Principles – Jamal Badawy
9. The Sealed Nectar; the Biography of the Prophet – Safiurahman Mubarakpuri
10. Islam in Focus - Hammudah Abdalati
11. Islamic Threat – Myth or Reality by John Esposito
12. What Everyone needs to know about Islam – John Esposito
13. Orientalism - Edward Said
14. Covering Islam – Edward Said
15. Conference of the Books: The search for beauty in Islam - Khaled Abou El Fadl
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16. Islam and the Challenge of Democracy - Khaled Abou El Fadl
17. Various Essays and special articles
18. Against terrorism in Islam - Jamal Badawy (internet lecture)

19. Various websites – see: [www.olivetreeeducation.org](http://www.olivetreeeducation.org)

Co-Sponsors: Office of Religious Life, VU  
Muslim Students Association, VU  
Islamic Center of Nashville

# Directions

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Location: Vanderbilt University  
The Divinity School  
Room G 23

Date: Every SAT: Feb 24 - April 21

Time: 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Directions: The Divinity School building is located at the intersection of 21st Ave. South and Scarritt Place, (across from San Antonio Taco Restaurant)

From Interstate 40, take Broadway exit and go south (away from downtown). Past Beaman Toyota, keep left to merge on to 21st Ave South.

From 440, take 21st Ave exit, Go North (towards downtown)

Parking lots are in front of the Divinity School or the Law School or public parking across the street in the Wesley Garage located on Scarrit Place behind the CVS pharmacy.