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crescent project

HOPE WORTH SHARING

## Sahara Challenge 2017 Course Syllabus

**Instructors:** Rev. Fouad Masri  
A team of guest speakers in their respective fields  
**Dates:** June 20 – June 24, 2017  
**Location:** Bethel University (St. Paul, Minnesota)

**Course description:**

*Sahara Challenge is an intensive classroom training and preparatory course focused on bridging the Gospel to the Muslim heart and mind.*

*Ideal for missionaries, pastors, lay workers, and college students, Sahara Challenge will not only give you the tools and knowledge to share the Hope with Muslims, but its hopeful message will motivate you for a lifetime of service.*



**This course will present a biblical and practical blueprint for ministering to Muslims. Special emphasis on:**

1. The biblical basis for ministering to Muslims
2. Islam, its formation, history and beliefs
3. Cultural skills necessary for understanding the Muslim culture
4. Ministry tools to produce effective communications between Muslims and Christians
5. Biblical disciplines for the Christian walk
6. Biblical foundations for spiritual leadership
7. Presenting the Gospel to Muslims with clarity and relevance
8. Communicating effectively with Muslims
9. Contextualization and cross-cultural communication

### **Course Requirements:**

1. Attendance: All students must be present at all sessions
2. Reading: All required reading must be done prior to arriving in St. Paul
3. Assignments: All assignments and group work must be completed and submitted on time.
4. Spiritual Formation: Complete 'Day with the Lord' worksheet prior to arriving in St. Paul.
5. Passing Grade on Final Exam

### **Classroom Time Commitment: 40 hours**

- Islam: History, belief, and ritual
- Cultural: Islamic culture, politics and assimilation, cross cultural communication
- Spiritual Formation: Character of a Christian, daily disciplines, Stewardship
- Ministry Skills: Tools for reaching Muslims, Answers to common questions
- Leadership: Introduction to leadership/conflict resolution/servant leadership

### **Fieldwork and Additional Education: 20 hours**

- Case studies and group discussion
- Culturally-relevant movie screening and discussion
- Small group workshops and discussion-based learning
- "Evening with the Lord"

### **Required Reading Assignments - Due Prior to Sahara Challenge**

*Please use your own Bible to complete this portion of the reading*

- The New Testament  
You must have read the New Testament in its entirety at some point prior to Sahara Challenge

*The following items are online*

- *Bridges: Christians Connecting With Muslims* by Fouad Masri  
Watch Sessions 4-6; Link and online registration code included in email
- *The Qur'an* translated by Yusuf Ali - <http://www.islam101.com/quran/yusufAli/>  
Prior To Sahara Challenge: Read chapters 1-3, 9, 25 & 112)  
After Sahara Challenge: Read remaining chapters

If you would like to purchase a hard copy for your own reference, we recommend purchasing the ***The Koran*** (Penguin Classics ) by N.J. Dawood, Translator: ISBN-13:978-0140449204.

The following items will be shipped to the address provided with your registration. Please contact us at [sahara@creseentproject.org](mailto:sahara@creseentproject.org) if you have not received all items listed within 2-3 weeks.

- *Adha in the Injeel* by Fouad Masri
- *Ambassadors to Muslims* by Fouad Masri
- *Connecting with Muslims* by Fouad Masri  
Read Chapters 1 & 2
- *Do Christians Worship Three Gods?* by Fouad Masri
- *Is Injeel Barnaba True?* by Fouad Masri
- *Is Muhammad in the Bible?* by Fouad Masri
- *Is the Injeel Corrupted?* by Fouad Masri
- *Who Died on the Cross?* by Fouad Masri
- *Who is Isa Bin Maryam?* by Fouad Masri
- *Foreign to Familiar* by Sarah Lanier

### **Recommended Reading**

- *Answering Islam, The Crescent in the Light of the Cross* by Norman L. Geisler and Abdul Saleeb
- *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel
- *A Christian Approach to Muslims, Reflections from West Africa* by James P. Dretke
- *Cross and Crescent: Responding to the Challenge of Islam* by Colin Chapman
- *The Cross and the Crescent: Understanding the Muslim Heart and Mind* by Phil Parshall
- *The Gospel for Islam: Reaching Muslims in North America* edited by Roy Oksnevad and Dotsey Welliver
- *Healing the Broken Family of Abraham: New Life for Muslims* by Don McCurry
- *A History of the Arab Peoples* by Albert Hourani
- *Ministry to Muslim Women: Longing to Call Them Siste* by Frank Love and Jeleta Eckheart
- *Muslims and Christians at the Table* by Bruce A. McDowell and Anees Zaka
- *Planting Churches in Muslim Cities: A Team Approach* by Greg Livingstone
- *The Prophet and the Messiah, An Arab Christian's Perspective on Islam and Christianity*  
by Chawkat Moucarry
- *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity* by Nabeel Qureshi
- *Woman to Woman: Sharing Jesus With a Muslim Friend* by Joy Loewen

**Recommended short-term trip:**

Stateside and overseas trips are offered immediately following completion of the training. We highly recommend that students go on a trip to further their cultural understanding and to put into practice what they have just learned.

**Cross-cultural Ministry Experience: 90+ hours:**

- Cross-cultural experience in a Muslim setting
- Putting the training into practice
- Teamwork skills development
- Exploring spiritual gifts
- Reliance on prayer



**Additional Trip Requirement:**

Students seeking practicum or internship credits may complete and submit a 5 page academic or 5 minute multimedia report on the short-term trip.

**Grading:**

Final Exam covering all materials – both inside and outside the classroom – will be administered on the final day of the Sahara Challenge.

Grading:

- 95-100= A+
- 90-95 = A
- 85-90 = B+
- 80-85 = B
- 75-80 = C+
- 70-75= C
- 60-69= D

**ACADEMIC CREDIT:** Many Christian colleges, seminaries, and Bible colleges give up to 3 hours of college credit for those completing Sahara Challenge and additionally, schools often offer 3 hours practicum or internship credits for a short-term trip or Crescent Project summer internship.

**APPLICATION & INFORMATION:** Visit our website [www.crescentproject.org/saharachallenge](http://www.crescentproject.org/saharachallenge) for more information, costs, and application procedure.