Fr Patrick McInerney is a Columban missionary priest from South Australia and was ordained in 1978. He was assigned to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for more than twenty years, where he was involved in a variety of ministries – parish, teaching, administration, leadership, and Christian-Muslim Relations. He completed a licence at the Pontifical Institute for the Study of Arabic and Islamics in Rome in 1986, a Masters in Theology at the Melbourne College of Divinity in 2003, and a Doctorate in Theology at the Australian Catholic University in 2009. Fr Patrick is the Director of the Columban Mission Institute in Strathfield, the Coordinator of its Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations and a staff member of its Centre for Mission Studies. He lectures in Islam and Interreligious Dialogue at the Catholic Institute of Sydney. He is also a staff member of the Broken Bay Institute’s faculty for Mission and Culture and lectures in Islam and Interreligious Dialogue with the University of Newcastle. He is a member of the Australian Catholic Council for Ecumenism and Interreligious Relations (ACCEIR) (which advises the Bishop’s Commission on Ecumenism and Interreligious Relations), a board member of the Australian Catholic University’s Centre for Inter-religious Dialogue (CID), and on the Executive of the NSW branch of Religions for Peace (RfP). In 2011 Fr Patrick was awarded the title of Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University (ACU). Fr Patrick attends interfaith and multi-faith conferences, and gives talks and lectures on Islam, Christian-Muslim Relations, Interreligious Relations and mission related topics to a wide variety of audiences.
UNIT OBJECTIVES

This graduate course unit provides an in-depth introduction to Islam, the second largest religion in the world and in history and a significant part of the context in which Christian mission is carried out today. Accordingly it serves as a foundational unit in Missiology. It enables students to acquire the historical background necessary for understanding the impact of Islam in the modern world and the importance of Christian-Muslim relations in contemporary society.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the key persons, events and movements in the origins, development and history of Islam
2. Display a perceptive understanding of the central elements of Islamic faith and practice
3. Engage in a constructive dialogue with Muslims in an informed, respectful and sensitive way
4. Counter negative stereotypes about Islam and engage collaboratively on the many truths and values Muslims hold in common with Christians
5. Apply knowledge and skills with creativity and initiative to promote better relations between Christians and Muslims in the contemporary multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-religious Australian society

CONTENT

1. Pre-Islamic Arabia
2. The life of the Prophet Muhammad
3. The Development and Expansion of Islam
4. The Holy Quran and the Sunnah (traditions)
5. The Five Pillars of Islam and the Shari’a (Islamic Law)
6. Contemporary reform movements in Islam
7. Christian-Muslim Relations over the centuries
8. New opportunities for dialogue between Christians and Muslims in today’s world
9. Particular topics e.g. women in Islam, fundamentalism, Sunni, Shi’a, Sufism.

SESSION DATES & TIMES

Sessions will be held:
9:30am – 4:00pm
On the following days:
14th – 16th January
19th – 20th January

COST & REGISTRATION

Unit Costs:  
Award Students $1700  
Non-Award Students $1700  
Audit Students $500  
CISSA Fee $10

Registration closes:
11 December, 2014

If you are a continuing Catholic Institute of Sydney student, simply register for the course in person as per usual during Registration Week (Week 13). Information regarding Registration Week is posted on the Registry Noticeboard and the CIS website.

All other students interested in registering in this unit should contact:

The Academic Registrar:
Dr Rohan Curnow
rcurnow@cis.catholic.edu.au

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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