Acton University 2023

Outline of "Islam 101" lecture by Mustafa Akyol

What are the basic teachings of Islam? How do they compare to those of Judaism and Christianity? Who was the historical Muhammad? How one should make sense of controversial concepts such as sharia, jihad or caliphate? This lecture will present answers to such questions, while also offering an analysis of the doctrinal problems in the contemporary Muslim world.

HIGHLIGHTS:

1) Arabia before Islam: Desert, idolatry, and tribalism

2) Muhammad: From merchant to messenger of God.

3) A view from Abraham Kuyper.

4) Key themes of the Qur’an.

5) Mary and Jesus in the Qur’an.

6) How Islam offended pagan Mecca?

7) Why the Qur’an commanded war?

8) How Muhammad treated Jews, Christians, and polytheists?

9) Three controversial concepts: Jihad, the Sharia and the Caliphate

SUGGESTED READINGS:

Mustafa Akyol, *Islam without Extremes: A Muslim Case for Liberty*, WW Norton, 2011 (Available at the Acton University Book Store)

Mustafa Akyol, “[Liberty was Islam’s first call](https://oll.libertyfund.org/page/liberty-matters-mustafa-akyol-liberty-was-islams-first-call-october-2021),” Online Library of Liberty (Available as free PDF)

Mustafa Akyol, “[Why, as a Muslim, I Defend Liberty](https://www.libertarianism.org/books/why-muslim-i-defend-liberty),” Libertarianism.org (Available as free PDF)

You can have access to all recent writings and lectures of Mustafa Akyol at his [Cato Institute](https://www.cato.org/people/mustafa-akyol) page, and follow him on Twitter at @akyolinEnglish.