



The mission of ISG is to contribute to the intercultural, interfaith friendship and constitute dialogue and mutual understanding between Muslims and members of other religions and cultures.

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A QUICK LOOK AT THE FALL PROGRAM

ISG's Annual Gathering
6:00PM, August 31, WPU Dining Room B

Understanding Islam - 1
6:00PM, September 16, WPU 511

Understanding Islam - 2
6:00 PM, September 21, WPU Dining Room B

A Muslim-Christian Dialog
6:45 PM, September 23, CMU Adamson Wing

Understanding Islam - 3
6:00 PM, September 30, WPU 511

Living Cross-Culturally
6:30 PM, October 14, PUBHL G23

Muhammad (PBUH)
6:00 PM, October 19, WPU Dining Room B

Iftar Dinner
6:00PM, October 26, WPU Kurtzman Room

Muhammad (PBUH)
6:00PM, November 2, WPU Dining Room B

Topics in Theology: *What is Praying?*
6:00 PM, November 16, WPU Dining Room B

University of Pittsburgh

ISLAMIC STUDIES GROUP

FALL 2004 PROGRAM



For more information:
<http://www.pitt.edu/~sorc/isg>

Everyone is Welcome

**Open Discussion and Comments Follow
Every Session**



“Dear friend, your heart is a polished mirror. You must wipe it clean of the veil of dust that has gathered upon it, because it is destined to reflect the light of divine secrets.”

GHAZZALI



ISG's Annual Gathering

The program starts with a ten minute presentation about ISG's mission and fall term programs. Homemade food and beverages will be served.

6:00 PM, August 31, WPU Dining Room B

Understanding Islam Lecture Series

We are continuously exposed to news about Islam and Muslims. Unfortunately, most of the news originate either from the people who *misrepresent Islam* or from those who *misunderstand* it. This 3-week series of "Understanding Islam" lectures aims to alleviate this fact by covering

*Basics: *Bare facts about Islam*,

*Theory: *Essentials of Islamic Faith*, and

*Practice: *Acts of a Muslim*



Understanding Islam Lecture 1: Concept of God

The lecture series starts with the *Concept of God* which is at the heart of any religion. Based on the belief in God, the essentials of Islamic faith are covered and the audience is prepared for the following lectures.

6:00 PM, September 16, WPU 511

- Notes:**
- * There is pizza and soda in every event.
 - * WPU stands for William Pitt Union.
 - * A *Muslim-Christian Dialog* event will be at Carnegie Mellon University
 - * Please check our web site for directions

Understanding Islam Lecture 2: Muslim Life From Model to Reality

This lecture starts with a brief review of previous lecture. Then, we study the concept of messenger and model Muslim by frequent referrals to the life of prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Finally, we present a closer look at the daily life of a Muslim in the light of the discussion made so far. 6:00 PM, September 21, WPU Dining Room B

A Muslim-Christian Dialog

Join us for a special interfaith event, sponsored by Pitt's Islamic Studies Group, CMU's University Lecture Series, and the Presbyterian Church. Our two guests from Hyderabad, India—Dr. Ismat Mehdi, who is Muslim, and Dr. Andreas D'Sousa, who is Christian, will present a panel discussion on building relationships of understanding and mutual discovery with our Christian and Muslim neighbors. The panel discussion is followed by open questions and discussion with the audience. Everyone is invited to stay afterwards for a reception.



This evening is the opening Pittsburgh event for the PCUSA's Listening Team series: <http://www.pcusa.org/listeningproject>.

6:45 PM, September 23, CMU Adamson Wing

Understanding Islam Lecture 3: Islam Today

In the final lecture, we move towards more practical issues by providing basic facts about Islam and Muslims. Then, we study the social system of Islam. The series is concluded by highlighting major issues covered in the previous lectures.

6:00 PM, September 30, WPU 511

Living Cross-Culturally: The Importance of Interreligious Dialog in an Age of Cultural Conflict

What is wrong with "multiculturalism"? What are the challenges of living in an intercultural age? What is interreligious dialogue and what role can it play in helping us to cross cultural boundaries in ways that are mutually enhancing? These are some of the main questions Professor Alexander will be discussing from the perspective of a Catholic theologian whose area of expertise is Islamic Studies and Catholic-Muslim relations.

Professor Scott C. Alexander is an Associate Professor of Islam and director of Catholic-Muslim Studies Program at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, IL.

6:30 PM, October 14, PUBLH G23

Muhammad (PBUH) - 1

This *book of universe* couldn't be understood without a guide. God created messengers, so that they may describe the meaning of creation.

Muhammad, (peace be upon him), the last messenger of God, will be the subject of this series of presentations. First week characteristics of messengers will be described briefly and a chronological overview of the life of Muhammad (PBUH) will be given.

6:00 PM, October 19, WPU Dining Room B

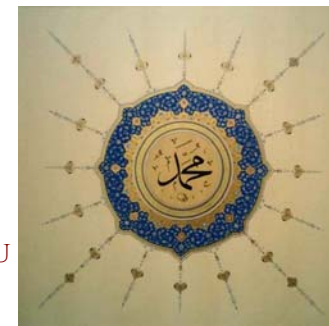


Iftar Dinner

Ramadan is the ninth month of lunar calendar, in which Muslims fast from dawn to sunset everyday. Many of Ramadan Fasting's purposes relate to God's Lordship and giving thanks for his bounties, as well as to humanity's individual and collective life, self-training and self-discipline. Iftar is the name of dinner to break Fast. Everybody is invited to share this experience.

(RSVP required
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6:30 PM, October 26, WPU Kurtzman Room



Muhammad (PBUH) - 2

In this second part of the series, some examples of Muhammad (PBUH) beautiful character will be explained. Different dimensions of his Prophehood, as an educator, leader, father and husband, will be discussed. 6:00 PM, November 2, Dining Room B

Topics in Theology: What is Praying?

We pray but we observe that sometimes our prayer is not accepted. When we are in trouble we think about praying, but what is the point of praying if we do not know that we will get the result we are seeking.

6:00 PM, November 16, WPU Dining Room B