

# Introduction to Islam: "Lecture - Documentaries" on DVD for Inter Institutional Collaboration

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## **1. Background: Rationale for Overall Project**

Having participated in NITLE's [Second al-Musharaka Seminar](#) in the Summer of 2003, and having become involved in a collaborative teaching effort "[The Islam Course collaborative](#)" I am interested in developing course materials that can be used for this collaborative, as well as for future collaboratives such as might develop out of [ACS's](#) Middle Easter Studies Conference held at the [Technology Center](#) in Georgetown, TX, this past September. In particular, I hope to design, record, and edit enhanced video guest lectures that will help to overcome some of the challenges of distance learning. While I eagerly look forward to the collaboration with my colleagues at [Juniata](#), [Hobart and William Smith](#), and [Hope](#) Colleges, I am somewhat leery about the reaction of students at these institutions to haphazardly taped guest lectures by my colleagues and myself. Anybody who has "sat through" a videotape of her own (or somebody else's) lecture will agree that a haphazardly taped version cannot capture the full experience of the live event, and that a taped version can pose serious challenges to elicit students' attention.

My immediate goal is to produce one or two taped "lecture - documentaries," i.e. lectures enhanced with various visual and audio aides, including images, maps, sound files, timelines and graphs that will be visually appealing and will ensure greater attention of its audience. The materials, to be recorded on DVD media, and possibly also hosted on the Web in MS-Producer or other, non-proprietary format , will be made available to the three collaborating institutions during the Fall of 2004; the materials will likewise be available to my colleagues at Furman, whose invitations for guest lectures I cannot always accept, due to time constraints. Likewise, I hope to share these lectures with interested ACS institutions, ideally they would be used in collaborations on Middle Eastern Studies. Together with the DVDs, I will produce Web based materials that allow students and teachers to further explore the subject matter discussed in the videos; these web materials will include further readings, maps, images, and links to pertinent materials, as well as interactive quizzes on the materials (see [sample quizzes](#) on my [homepage](#)).

## **2. Description: Part of the Project To Be Done Under ACS Funding**

I plan to produce one or two "lecture - documentary" DVDs, each 50 minutes in length. The first lecture will deal with the *Life of Muhammad*, a second lecture will possibly deal with the *Qur'an from a historical - critical and theological*

*perspective.* While I have presented on each of these topics in a variety of settings a great number of times, I will have to develop a well thought out script, identify promising visual and audio materials that can accompany the lectures, and tape, edit, and digitalize the "lecture - documentary."

### **3. Timeline: Deliverables/Milestones for ACS Funded Part of Project**

I plan to gradually collect materials, in addition to my research project for this sabbatical year; I hope to be able to start taping in March of 2004, finishing the DVDs by the end of spring 2004.

<b>When ?</b>	<b>What ?</b>
October 2003 -	Start collecting audio - visual materials related to project; check on copyrights for usable materials; identify readings, other sources / materials for supplementary Website
January - March 2004	Start scripts for "lecture -documentaries."
March - May 2004	Begin taping / editing; begin writing of supplementary Website
End of May 2004	Digitize video, burn DVDs, have finished products in hand

### **4. Technology: Technical Requirements for the Project**

<b>Technical Requirements</b>	<b>Source:</b>
Video recording Equipment	<a href="#">Furman University, CCLC (Center for Collaborative Learning and Communication)</a>
Video Editing Equipment	<a href="#">Furman University, CCLC (Center for Collaborative Learning and Communication)</a>
DVD Recording Equipment	<a href="#">Furman University, CCLC (Center for Collaborative Learning and Communication)</a>
Web authoring software	<a href="#">Furman University, Computing and Information Services</a>
Web hosting	<a href="#">Furman University, Computing and Information Services</a>

### **5. Other Support: Institutional and/or Outside Support for Project**

Furman University has granted me a full year sabbatical for the academic year 2003-4 at reduced salary. While most of the sabbatical year will be spent on my own research projects, I had set aside some time in spring 2004 to generate funds supplementary to my reduced salary. The grant would allow

me to focus my time and energy on this project, instead of other, financially more attractive, projects.

**6. Learning Outcomes: How the Project Will Enhance Teaching/Learning**

The "lecture documentary" tapes will be vastly superior in quality to haphazardly taped, monotonous lectures. Greater student satisfaction will enable us to further explore inter institutional collaborative modes of teaching involving technology, while student dissatisfaction will seriously hamper, if not outrightly endanger our efforts to increase those cooperative teaching efforts at our institutions.

**7. Curriculum: How the Project Will Be Integrated into the Curriculum**

The videos will be shown to students enrolled in my Fall 2004 course on Islam, as well as students at [Juniata](#), [Hobart and William Smith](#), and [Hope](#) Colleges, as part of "[The Islam Course collaborative](#)" planned for that Fall. Additionally, the videos might be shown in other [Furman Religion courses](#), or courses at other ACS institutions.

**8. Assessment: How the Project Will Be Evaluated**

In addition to regular tools of assessment for my Fall 2004 course on Islam, I plan to have students evaluate the collaborative aspect of that class separately.

**9. Dissemination: How the Project Will Be Shared with ACS Colleagues**

The videos will be available to other ACS Colleagues on DVD-media, as well as MS Producer files; supplementary materials will be made accessible through the Web.