Worldviews
Mr. Myers

Philosophy: Islamic Epistemology

1. Ways of knowing truth
	1. Islamic epistemology is similar to Christian epistemology in that it accepts all six ways of knowing as legitimate, but considers revelation the supreme way of knowing
	2. For Muslims, the *Koran* is the supreme revelation of God and therefore the supreme expression of truth.
		1. First verse of the *Koran*: “Recite! In the name of your Lord who created. Created humanity from a clot of blood. Recite. For your Lord is the most generous one who has taught by the pen. Taught humanity that which it did not know. (96.1-5)
		2. **The *Koran* describes itself as a “guidance for mankind and clear evidence of guidance and discrimination (between wrong)”. (2:185)**

**Looking at the *Koran***

***The Qur'an on the Trinity.*** As is well-known, Muslims reject the Trinity because the Qur’an contains outright denunciations of it.

O people of the Scripture! Do not exceed the limits in your religion, nor say of Allah aught but the truth. The Messiah Isa (Jesus), son of Mary, was (no more than) a Messenger of Allah and His Word, which He bestowed on Mary and a spirit created by Him; so believe in Allah and His Messengers. Say not: "Three (trinity)!" Cease! (It is) better for you. For Allah is (the only) One God, glory be to Him (Far Exalted is He) above having a son. To Him belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth. And Allah is All-Sufficient as a Disposer of affairs. (Qur'an 4:171)

***God Has Sent Prophets and Their Books***

According to the Qur’an, God graciously has sent messengers to every nation to teach them submission to God and to warn them against false religious teachings and practices.

And verily, We have sent among every nation a Messenger: "Worship Allah (Alone), and avoid all false deities." Then of them were some whom Allah guided and of them were some upon whom the straying was justified. So travel through the land and see what was the end of those who denied (the truth). (Qur’an 16:36)

Verily We have sent you [Mohammad] with the truth, a bearer of glad tidings and a warner. And there never was a nation but a warner had passed among them. (Qur’an 35:24)

***Mohammad Was the Universal and Last Prophet.*** Though the message of the prophets was true to God, their message was temporary and limited. None were prophets for all people. Their messages were time-bound, even though in harmony with the Qur’an. "The Message of Mohammed," comments Afif Tabbarah, "was sent to all mankind, unlike those of the apostles before him who were sent, each to his own people." Thus we read in the Qur’an,

Say (O Muhammad): "O mankind! Verily, I am sent to you all as the Messenger of Allah — to Whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth.

Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the last of the Prophets. And Allah is Every All-Aware of everything. (Qur’an 33:40)

***On Islam’s Relationship to Other Faiths:***

Verily! Those who believe and those who are Jews and Christians, and Sabians, whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day and does righteous good deeds shall have their reward with the Lord, on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve. (Qur’an 2:62)

And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, it will never be accepted of him, and in the Hereafter he will be one of the losers. (Qur’an 3:85)

***Islam on Salvation: Good and Bad Works.*** Logically related to this view of human nature is the teaching of the Qur’an that the ultimate question for human destiny is whether one’s good deeds are greater than one’s evil deeds.

And the weighing on that day (Day of Resurrection) will be the true (weighing). So as for those whose scale (of good deeds) will be heavy, they will be the successful (by entering Paradise). And as for those whose scale will be light, they are those who will lose their own selves (by entering Hell). (Qur’an 7:8-9)

***The Qur’an Is Incorruptible.*** While it is common for Muslims to claim that the biblical texts have been tampered with to such an extent that the Bible cannot be regarded as reliable, it is also common for them to assert that the same could never happen to the Qur’an. Why could this never happen to the Qur’an? Because God has vowed to guard it:

Verily, We, it is We Who have sent down the Qur’an and surely, We will guard it (from corruption). (Qur’an 15:9)

***Islamic Denials: Jesus’s Death, Atonement and Resurrection.*** Muslims deny that Jesus is God come in human form (the incarnation), that he died upon a cross an atoning sacrifice for sin, and that he was resurrected on the third day. While the following passage contains some ambiguities, many Muslims believe it denies that Jesus was crucified at all.

That they said (in boast), "We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah" — but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not — nay, Allah raised him up unto Himself. (Qur’an 4:157-158; cf. 3:54)