

**Rutgers University Department of Religion Spring 2010**  
**840:326:02 (685:326:02) Islam TTh 1:10-2:30 SC 119/CAC**  
**Instructor:** Dr. James Pavlin **Office:** Loree Bldg. 130/DC; **email:** jdpavlin@rci.rutgers.edu  
**Office Hours:** T 11:30-12:00 and Th 12:00-12:30, or by appointment

### **Course Description:**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to Islam in its religious and historical contexts. In order to accomplish this, a three-fold approach is taken: a study of the scriptural texts of Islam, of the fundamental doctrines derived from these texts, and of the various interpretations given to the texts and doctrines by the major Muslim groups which developed over the centuries. Additionally, the interpretations of Western Orientalists will be included as part of the process of understanding divergent approaches to Islam. From the historical point of view, the focus of study will be divided between the formative and classical periods of Islam (from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries CE) and the modern period (since 1798 CE). Emphasis in the modern period will be given to analysis of Islamic movements and the role of women in contemporary Islamic societies.

### **Required Texts:**

Esposito, John and John O. Voll. *Makers of Contemporary Islam*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.  
Waines, David. *An Introduction to Islam*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

There will also be articles assigned for specific topics, these will be distributed as handouts or sent as emails.

### **Recommended Texts on Reserve at Alexander Library:**

Abdel Haleem, Muhammad. *Understanding the Quran: Themes and Style*.  
Ask, Karin and Marit Tjomsland. *Women and Islamization: Contemporary Dimensions of Discourse on Gender*.  
Ayoub, Mahmoud. *The Qur'an and its Interpreters*.  
Azami, Muhammad M. *Studies in Hadith Methodology and Literature*.  
Donner, Fred. *The Early Islamic Conquests*.  
Hallaq, Wael B. *The origins and evolution of Islamic law*.  
Ibn Hisham, Abd al Malik. *The Life of Muhammad: a translation of Ibn Ishaq's Sirat Rasul Allah*.  
*Just War and Jihad: Historical and Theoretical Perspectives on War and Peace in Western and Islamic Traditions*. ed. by John Kelsay and James Turner Johnson.  
Lapidus, Ira M. *A History of Islamic Societies*.  
Madelung, Wilferd. *Religious Trends in Early Islamic Iran*.  
Phipps, William E. *Muhammad and Jesus: A Comparison of the Prophets and Their Teachings*.  
Rahman, Fazlur. *Major Themes of the Quran*.  
Schimmel, Annemarie. *And Muhammad is His Messenger*.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Mystical Dimensions of Islam*.  
Stowasser, Barbara. *Women in the Qur'an, Traditions, and Interpretation*.  
Tabataba'i, 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn. *Shi'ite Islam*.  
Voll, John Obert. *Islam, continuity and change in the modern world*.  
Waines, David. *An Introduction to Islam*.  
Watt, W.M. *Islamic Philosophy and Theology*.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Muhammad, Prophet and Statesman*.

**Reference works:**

*Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 13 volumes plus supplements. DS37.E51

*Encyclopedia of the Qur'an*, 5 volumes. Ed. by Jane Damman McAuliffe. BP133 b.E53 2001

*Oxford encyclopedia of the modern Islamic world*, 4 volumes. John L. Esposito, editor in chief.  
DS35.53.O95 1995 v.1

**Course Requirements:**

1) Attendance and Participation Policy: Students are expected to attend each class on time and contribute to class discussions. Attendance will be taken for each class. Not counting the first day's class, students are permitted one unexcused absence. After that, any unexcused absences may result in a reduction of the student's final grade based on my discretion. Students who encounter any extended problem with absences, for example, for medical, family emergency, or religious reasons, must inform me in writing (email acceptable) about the reason and duration of the absence. Decisions on excused absences will be made on a case-by-case basis.

The use of lap tops is permitted only for purposes related to the course. All cell phones, iPods, and any other such technology is strictly forbidden during class. Violation of this policy will result in your being requested to leave the class and receiving an unexcused absence.

2) Quizzes (30% of final grade): Short answer essay quizzes will occur on a regular basis to test the students' grasp of ideas and concepts under discussion. The quizzes could be in-class or take home. For the in-class quizzes, students will have about fifteen minutes to write the answer. There will be no make-ups for the in-class quizzes. Students who miss one-quarter or more of the quizzes will lose a corresponding percentage from the overall quiz grade. Students with excused absences will not be penalized for missed quizzes.

3) Midterm Exam (40% of final grade): The exam will consist of multiple choice, true/false and short answer questions. The test will be a comprehensive review of the most important historical and religious developments in Islam based on the first seven chapters of Waines's book. A study guide will be provided at the beginning of the semester. A make-up exam will be permitted for emergency cases only. The student must contact me immediately upon returning to class to arrange for the make up test. This will be the **only** possibility for a make-up.

4) One Research Paper (30% of final grade): The paper must have a cover page, 6-10 pages of text (averaging 250 words per page), and a bibliography. There must be a minimum of six academic sources, either published or from the internet. Other non-academic sources can be used. Paper topics must focus on a particular issue related to Islam in the modern period (i.e., post-1789). Broad surveys or overviews are not acceptable. Papers must conform to all academic standards. Late papers will **not** be accepted without prior approval.

**Grading Policy:** All final grades will be calculated according to the Rutgers' grading system. Letter grades and numerical grades on a scale of 100 to 65 will be converted to the point system as follows: 4.0 = A (100-90), 3.5 = B+ (89-85), 3.0 = B (84-80), 2.5 = C+ (79-75), 2.0 = C (74-70), 1.0 = D (69-65), 0.0 = F (64 and below). An incomplete ("T" grade) for this course will not be given unless the student consults with me about the reason for not completing the course work on time.

## Course Outline and Reading Assignments:

- 1/19 Introduction.
- 1/21 Haq, S. Nomanul, "Some Reflections on the Pedagogical Challenges of Introductory Courses on Islam," in *Counterpoints: Issues in Teaching Religious Studies*, 1995. (to be sent in email)  
Waines, *Excursus on Islamic Origins*, pp. 298-312.
- 1/26 and 28 The Life of Muhammad. Waines, chap. 1, pp. 7-23.
- 2/2 and 4 The Quran. Waines, chap. 1, pp. 23-32.
- 2/9 and 11 The Early Islamic Community. Waines, chap. 2.  
Saunders, J.J., "The Civil Wars" in *A History of Medieval Islam*, 1965. (to be sent in email)
- 2/16 and 18 Islamic Legal Tradition. Waines, chap. 3.
- 2/23 and 25 Islamic Theology. Waines, chap. 4.
- 3/2 and 4 Sufism. Waines, chap. 5.
- 2/9 and 11 Shiites. Waines, chap. 6.
- 3/16 and 18 Spring break**
- 3/23 and 25 Medieval Islam. Waines, chap. 7.
- 3/30 Midterm**
- 4/1 and 6 Contemporary Islam. Waines, chap. 8, and Eposito and Voll, *Introduction*.
- 4/8 and 13 Contemporary Islam. Eposito and Voll, chaps. 1-3.
- 4/15 and 20 Contemporary Islam. Eposito and Voll, chaps. 4-6.
- 4/22 and 27 Contemporary Islam. Eposito and Voll, chaps. 7-9.
- 4/29 **No class meeting. Research paper is due. It must be brought to the Department of Religion office Loree 140/DC by 12:00 (noon).**
- There is no final exam for this class.**