

Rutgers University Dept. of Religion (732-932-9641) Fall 2010
685/840:325:01 Prophet Muhammad MW (3:55-5:15) WAL 201/DC

Instructor: Dr. James Pavlin **Office:** Loree Bldg. 130/DC **Office Hours:** MW 5:30-6:00, or by appointment **Email:** jdpavlin@rci.rutgers.edu

Course Description: The course is designed to acquaint the student with Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam. Although no prerequisite courses are required, the student is expected to familiarize him/herself with the basic beliefs, practices and history of Islam and the Muslim peoples of the world. Using the *Sirah* (biography) of the Prophet as a foundation, the students will explore various themes related to the study of the Prophet as a historical and religious figure. This will include the tensions and conflicts arising from the Muslim and non-Muslim interpretations of the Messenger and the message. Likewise, the various forms of veneration of the Prophet within the Islamic world will be investigated. Each student will be expected to supplement the required readings with extensive recommended readings in order to participate fully in class discussions and prepare for the exam and analytical paper.

Required Texts:

Watt, W. Montgomery. *Muhammad: Prophet and Statesman*.
Schimmel, Annemarie. *And Muhammad is His Messenger*.

Additional Required Reading: Selections from Ibn Ishaq's *Sirat Rasul Allah* will be sent in PDF format in emails to students.

Recommended Texts on Reserve at Alexander Library:

Andrae, Tor. *Mohammad: the Man and his Faith*.
Daniel, Norman. *Islam and the West: the Making of an Image*.
Haykal, Muhammad H. *The Life of Muhammad*.
Ibn Hisham, Abd al Malik. *The Life of Muhammad: a translation of Ibn Ishaq's Sirat Rasul Allah*.
Lings, Martin. *Muhammad: his life based on the earliest sources*.
Peters, F.E. *Muhammad and the Origins of Islam*.
Phipps, William E. *Muhammad and Jesus: A Comparison of the Prophets and their Teachings*.
Schimmel, Annemarie. *And Muhammad is His Messenger*.
Tabari. *The History of al-Tabari*, vol. 6: *Muhammad at Mecca*.
_____. *The History of al-Tabari*, vol. 7: *The foundation of the community*.
_____. *The History of al-Tabari*, vol. 8: *The Victory of Islam*.
_____. *The History of al-Tabari*, vol. 9: *The last years of the Prophet*.
Waines, David. *An Introduction to Islam*.
Watt, W.M. *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

Course Requirements and Policies:

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 will be either in class or take home. 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.

3) Two Exams (40% of final grade): The exams will consist of short answer essays related to specific events in Muhammad's *Sirah*. A study guide will be provided. Make up exams are permitted for those having an excused absence. The student must contact me immediately upon returning to class so that arrangements can be made with the department secretary, who will proctor the exam. 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, 7 to 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. The topic for the paper must focus on a specific aspect of Muhammad's life or teachings. It can be historical research into an event in his life, e.g., an account of the battle of Badr, or a theological study of a religious issue, e.g., interpretations of his night journey and ascension. Papers must conform to all academic standards. All papers must be handed in by the due date, 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). For the quizzes, tests, and papers, a grade of A- will be used, being worth 3.8 points. 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:

9/1 Introduction and overview of the study of religion.

9/6 Rutgers closed, no class

9/8, Rutgers on Monday schedule, regular class meeting

9/13 Sources for Muhammad's Biography: Quran, Hadith, and Sirah Literature:
Watt, A Note on Sources (p. 241), and Schimmel, Introduction and ch. 1.

- 9/15 Overview of Muhammad as Prophet: Schimmel, ch. 2.
- 9/20, 22 Pre-Islamic Arabia: Watt, ch. 1.
Readings from Ibn Ishaq: 1paganarabs, 2quraysh, 3birth, & 4adolescencemarriage.
- 9/27, 29 The First Revelations and the Early Meccan Period: Watt, ch. 2.
Readings from Ibn Ishaq: 5revelation.
- 10/4, 6 The Later Meccan Period: Watt, ch. 3.
Readings from Ibn Ishaq: 6abyssinia, 7boycott, & 8yearofsadness.
- 10/11, 13 The Hijrah: Watt, ch. 4.
Readings from Ibn Ishaq: 9hijrah.
- Test One: take home essay test due on Monday, 10/18**
- 10/18 War with Mecca-the Battle of Badr: Watt, ch. 5.
Readings from Ibn Ishaq: 10badr; 4 maps of the major battles.
- 10/20, 25 War with Mecca-the Battle of Uhud and the Siege of Medina: Watt, ch. 6.
Readings from Ibn Ishaq: 11uhud & 12siege.
- 10/27, 11/1 Muhammad's Victory: Watt, ch. 7.
Readings from Ibn Ishaq: 13hudaybiyah & 14mecca.
- 11/3, 8 Muhammad's Death and Legacy: Watt, ch. 8 and 9
Readings from Ibn Ishaq: 15lasthajj, 16Adeath, & 16Bdeath..
- 11/10 **Test Two: in class essay test**
- 11/15, 17 The View of Muhammad in the West: Chapter 4 from Clinton Bennett's *In Search of Muhammad* (PDF file sent in email)
- 11/22 **Rutgers on Wednesday schedule, regular class meeting**
Muhammad's Unique Position: Schimmel, ch. 3.
- 11/29 Muhammad's Miracles: Schimmel, ch. 4.
- 12/1 Muhammad's Intercession: Schimmel, ch. 5.
- 12/6 Muhammad in the Sufi Tradition: Schimmel, ch. 7
- 12/8 The Prophet's Birthday: Schimmel, ch. 8
Isra and Mi'raj: Schimmel, ch. 9
- 12/13 Muhammad and Modernity: Schimmel, ch. 11
- 12/16 **Papers Due: The papers must be delivered to the Department of Religion, Loree 140, DC by 11:00am. No Final Exam Scheduled for this Class**