

Rutgers University Dept. of Religion (732-932-9641) Fall 2012
685/840:325:01 Prophet Muhammad MW (3:55-5:15) WAL 210-D/C

Instructor: Dr. James Pavlin **Office:** Loree Bldg. 134/DC **Office Hours:** MW 6:00-6:30, 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 recommended readings in order to participate fully in class discussions and prepare for the midterm exam and research paper.

Required Texts:

Schimmel, Annemarie. *And Muhammad is His Messenger*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1985. ISBN: 0-8078-4128-5
Watt, W. Montgomery. *Muhammad: Prophet and Statesman*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1974. ISBN: 0-19-881078-4

Additional Required Reading: Selections from Ibn Ishaq's *Sirat Rasul Allah*, 3 chapters from Clinton Bennett's *In Search of Muhammad*, and an article by A.F.L. Beeston, will be available in Sakai:Resources:Required Readings.

Study and Research Resources: The classroom experience will be enhanced through the use of Rutgers's web based interactive technology called Sakai. All students are required to know how to use Sakai. Although this course is not designed to be an online or hybrid course, Sakai will be our main means of communication outside the classroom. The site will contain announcements, assignments, tests and quizzes, required and recommended resources, discussion board, and grades, among other things.

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*.

_____. *Muhammad at Mecca*.

_____. *Muhammad at Medina*.

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 (10% of final grade): Students are expected to attend each class on time and contribute to class discussions. Attendance will be taken for each class. This portion of your grade is worth 10 points. Any unexcused absences will result in a reduction of this part of the student's grade by two points per unexcused absence. Six or more unexcused absences will result in the student's final grade being lowered by one full letter grade. 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. Extended absences may require the student to do extra written assignments.

Self-Reporting of Absences:

In accordance with University policy, if you expect to miss a class, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me. **Please note that this does not necessarily mean that you will get an excused absence. That is based on my discretion.**

Classroom Etiquette and Netiquette: The use of lap tops is permitted only for purposes related to the course. (If I notice excessive giggling, I will assume you are not looking at course related material!) All cell phones, iPods, and any other such hand held devices are strictly forbidden during class. Violation of this policy will result in your being requested to leave the class and receiving an unexcused absence. Respectful speech is required at all times, in class and in the various Sakai forums. Disputes and disagreements are expected, but vulgar and insulting language will not be tolerated. All Sakai forums will be monitored for compliance.

2) Quizzes (30% of final grade): Students will take seven quizzes based on the required readings. Quizzes will be available in Sakai:Tests and Quizzes, and they will be submitted online. They will consist of multiple choice, true-false, fill in the blank, or short answer questions. All quizzes will have a limited open period of 72 hours to take the quiz, and you will have 1 hour and 20 minutes to complete it. Once you start the quiz, you must complete it in one sitting. You cannot save your answers and return at a later time to finish it. In case of unintended submission, students must contact me immediately. I will determine if you deserve to retake the quiz.

3) One Exam (30% of final grade): The in-class exam will be given at the completion of the study of Muhammad's *Sirah* (see date below). The test will be a general overview of all aspects of Muhammad's life from birth to death. It will consist of multiple choice, true-false, and short answer questions. 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. The topic for the paper must focus on one 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. Students must use various primary and secondary sources in order to develop a comparative study of the topic. The sources can be either published or from the internet. Students should use a majority of academic sources, but some non-academic sources can be used. 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. **Grades that appear in the Sakai Gradebook are close estimations of your grade.** I reserve the right to adjust and override these grades as I deem necessary. All final grades are based on my assessment of your work.

Office of Disability Services:

Any student requiring special accommodations to participate in and successfully complete this course must contact the Office of Disability Services and ask to speak with a Coordinator (848-445-6800 or <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu>) to discuss accommodations.

Course Outline and Reading Assignments:

9/5 Introduction

9/10 Preliminary Thoughts on the Study of Muhammad and Islam: read Schimmel's ch. 1; Clinton Bennett's *Muhammad of History: the Primary Sources* in Sakai:Resources:Required Readings (file name: Muhammad-primary sources).

9/12 Evaluation of Sources: Quran, Hadith, and Sirah Literature: Schimmel, *Introduction*, pp. 3-8; Watt's *Notes on the Sources*, pp. 241-245; Clinton Bennett's *The Sources: a Critical Evaluation* in Sakai:Resources:Required Readings (file name: Muhammad-critical evaluation; see also Arabiamap&Muhammadgenealogy).

9/17-9/19 Overview of Muhammad as Prophet: Schimmel, ch. 2; Beeston, *Nomenclature* in Sakai:Resources:Required Readings (file name: Beeston-Nomenclature)

Quiz 1: Sirah Sources—multiple choice/true-false questions; available on Sakai: Tests and Quizzes from 9/19 6:00 am to 9/22 6:00 pm.

9/24-9/26 From Ignorance to Islam: Watt, chs. 1 & 2; Readings from Ibn Ishaq in Sakai:Resources:Required Readings (file names: Arabidolworship, QurayshinMecca, birthofMuhammad, adolescencemarriage, firstrevelation; see also notespreislamculture).

10/1-10/3 The Meccan Period: Watt, ch. 3; Readings from Ibn Ishaq in Sakai:Resources:Required Readings (file names: migrationtoabyssinia, boycott, yearofsadness).

Quiz 2: Pre-Islamic Arabia and the Meccan Period

10/8-10/10 The Hijrah and the Ummah: Watt, chs. 4 & 5; Readings from Ibn Ishaq in Sakai:Resources:Required Readings (file names: hijrah, battleofbadr; see also mapsofmajorbattles).

10/15-10/17 War with Mecca-the Battle of Uhud and the Siege of Medina: Watt, ch. 6; Readings from Ibn Ishaq in Sakai:Resources:Required Readings (file names: battleofuhud, siegeofMedina).

Quiz 3: The Hijrah and Establishing the Ummah

10/22-10/24 Muhammad's Victory: Watt, ch. 7; Readings from Ibn Ishaq in Sakai:Resources:Required Readings (file names: treatyofHudaybiyah, liberationofmecca).

10/29-10/31 Muhammad's Death and Legacy: Watt, chs. 8 & 9; Readings from Ibn Ishaq in Sakai:Resources:Required Readings (file names: farewellpilgrimage, deathofMuhammadpt1, deathofMuhammadpt2).

11/5 Test on the Sirah

11/7-11/12 The View of Muhammad in the West: Clinton Bennett's *Non-Muslim Lives: from the Renaissance to Today* in Sakai:Resources:Required Readings (file names: bennettrenaissance; see also notesislaminwest).

Quiz 4: Christian and Western Views of Muhammad

11/14 Muhammad's Unique Position: Schimmel, ch. 3.

11/19 Muhammad's Miracles: Schimmel, ch. 4.

Quiz 5: Schimmel Chapters 3 and 4

11/26 Muhammad's Intercession: Schimmel, ch. 5.

11/28 Muhammad in the Sufi Tradition: Schimmel, ch. 7

Quiz 6: Schimmel Chapters 5 and 7

12/3 The Prophet's Birthday: Schimmel, ch. 8

12/5 Isra and Mi'raj: Schimmel, ch. 9

12/10 Muhammad and Modernity: Schimmel, ch. 11

Quiz 7: Schimmel Chapters 8, 9 and 11

12/12 Papers Due: No class meeting. The papers must be delivered to the Department of Religion, Loree 140, D/C by 4:00pm. No Final Exam Scheduled for this Class.