

Rutgers University Dept. of Religion (848-932-9641) Fall 2016
685/840:325:01 Prophet Muhammad MW (2:15-3:35) LOR 115/DC

Instructor: Dr. James Pavlin **Office:** Loree Bldg. 134/DC **Office Hours:** MW 4:00-4:30, 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 Text:

Watt, W. Montgomery. *Muhammad: Prophet and Statesman*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1974. ISBN: 0-19-881078-4

Additional Required Reading: Various other readings from articles and book chapters will be posted online on Sakai: Resources: Required Readings.

Study and Research Resources: The classroom experience will be enhanced through the use of Rutgers' 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*.

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*.

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*.

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

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. Any unexcused absences will result in a ten point deduction per unexcused absence. Students who are not prepared for class discussions will also have ten points deducted. 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 Technology: The use of lap tops is permitted only for purposes related to the course. 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.

2) Quizzes (50% of final grade): Students will take five quizzes based on the required readings. Quizzes will be available in Sakai: Tests and Quizzes according to the schedule below. They will consist of multiple choice, true-false, fill in the blank, or short answer questions. All quizzes will have a set time limit 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. If any problems occur during a quiz, students must contact me immediately. I will determine if you deserve to retake the quiz.

3) Two Writing Assignments (40% of final grade): The essays must focus on a specific event in the Sirah and present an analysis of the event from the various required readings. A major theme of the essays must be a comparison of the different perspectives taken by the authors of the Sirah. Besides the required readings, students may use any other sources to further develop the topic. The essays must have proper references and a bibliography. The other 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. The essays must conform to all academic standards for content and integrity. Plagiarized work will result in an automatic F and possibly other disciplinary actions against the student. 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.

Student-Wellness Services:

Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

Course Outline and Reading Assignments:

- 9/7 Introduction
- 9/12 class cancelled
- 9/14 Overview of Muhammad and Islam
Sakai:Resources:Required Readings under file names: Basic concepts Islam, Beeston-Nomenclature, and Arabiamap&Muhammadgenealogy
- 9/19, 21 Preliminary Thoughts on the Study of Muhammad and Islam: Clinton Bennett's *Muhammad of History: the Primary Sources* in Sakai:Resources:Required Readings (file name: Muhammad-primary sources).
- 9/26, 28 Evaluation of Sources: Quran, Hadith, and Sirah Literature: 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;).

Quiz 1: Sirah Sources and Evaluation—available on Sakai: Tests and Quizzes from 9/28 4:00 pm to 10/5 1:00 pm.

- 10/3 Concepts of Prophethood: from the *Creed of at-Tahawi* and *Ibn Taymiyyah Expounds on Islam* in Sakai: Resources: Required Readings (file names: CreedTahawi and TaymiyyahExpounds).
- 10/5, 10 Muhammad in pre-Islamic Arabia: Watt, ch. 1; Birth and Early Childhood: Ibn Ishaq (birthofMuhammad), Muir, pp. 3-9, Haykal, pp. 111-116; Youth and Marriage to Khadijah: Ibn Ishaq (adolescencemarriage), Muir, pp. 10-27, Haykal, pp. 117-125.
- 10/12, 17 Call to Prophethood: Watt, ch. 2; First Revelation and Early Preaching: Ibn Ishaq (firstrevelation), Muir, pp. 42-54, Haykal, pp. 136-146.

Quiz 2: Pre-Islamic Arabia and the Early Meccan Period—available on Sakai:Tests and Quizzes from 10/17 4:00 pm to 10/24 1:00 pm.

- 10/19, 24 The Meccan Period: Watt, ch. 3; The Night Journey and Ascension: Ibn Ishaq (isra_mi'raj), Muir, pp. 121-122, Haykal, pp. 199-207.
- 10/26, 31 The Hijrah: Watt, ch. 4; The Hijrah: Ibn Ishaq (hijrah), Muir, pp. 132-143 and 179-186, Haykal, pp. 221-239.

Quiz 3: Late Meccan Period and The Hijrah—available on Sakai:Tests and Quizzes from 10/31 4:00 pm to 11/7 1:00 pm.

- 11/2, 7, 9 Medina and the War with Mecca: Watt, ch. 5; Battle of Badr: Ibn Ishaq (battleofbadr), Muir, pp. 214-232, Haykal, pp. 268-291.

11/14 First Writing Assignment Due: The Meccan Period and the Hijrah

11/14, 16, 21 War with Mecca (continued): Watt, ch. 6; Battle of Uhud: Ibn Ishaq (battleofuhud), Muir, pp. 252-274, Haykal, pp. 303-318; Wives of the Prophet: Muir, pp. 290-305, Haykal, pp. 329-341.

Quiz 4: The Medinan Period and the War with Mecca—available on Sakai: Tests and Quizzes from 11/21 4:00 pm to 11/30 1:00 pm.

11/28, 30 Muhammad's Victory: Watt, ch. 7; Treaty of Hdaybiyah: Ibn Ishaq (treatyofHdaybiyah), Muir, pp. 353-367, Haykal, pp. 377-395.

12/5, 7 Muhammad's Last Two Years: Watt, ch. 8; The Farewell Pilgrimage: Ibn Ishaq (farewellpilgrimage), Muir, pp. 478-475, Haykal, pp. 499-505.

12/12, 14 Muhammad's Legacy: Watt, ch. 9; Death of Muhammad: Ibn Ishaq (deathofMuhammadpt1, deathofMuhammadpt2), Muir, pp. 480-523, Haykal, pp. 508-530.

Quiz 5: Muhammad's Final Years and Legacy—multiple choice/true-false questions; available on Sakai: Tests and Quizzes from 12/12 4:00 pm to 12/19 1:00 pm.

12/19 Second Writing Assignment Due: The Medinan Period