

Rutgers University Dept. of Religion (848-932-9641) Summer III 2015
840:203:H1 (685:233:H1) Hybrid Course Islamic Scriptures
In-Class Meetings MW (10:15-12:05) 7/6, 7/8 7/13, 7/15, 7/20, 7/22, 7/27, 7/29, 8/3, 8/5, 8/10
SC 206/CAC

Instructor: Dr. James Pavlin **Office:** Loree Bldg. 130/DC; email: jdpavlin@rci.rutgers.edu
Office Hours: Mon./Wed. before or after class (we will meet in the classroom)

Course Description: The purpose of the course is to introduce the student to the sacred texts of Islam. Muslims regard the Quran as the literal, revealed word of Allah but also consider the statements and actions of the Prophet Muhammad, collectively known as the Hadith or Sunnah, as part of a broader concept of revealed information. Each mode of revelation, Quran and Hadith, form the scriptural basis on which Muslims build their religious life and define the concepts of sacred and profane. The course will explore how revelation bridges the gap between the divine and human by examining Islamic scriptures in their historical, theological, legal and mystical contexts.

Required Texts: 1) Abdel Haleem, M.A.S. *The Qur'an: A New Translation*. New York, Oxford University Press, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-19-953595-8
2) Articles and notes are available to the students on Sakai:Resources:Required Readings and the Library Electronic Access.

Reference and Research:

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
Journal of Qur'anic Studies, electronic resource through Rutgers library system

Course Requirements:

1) Attendance and Participation (20% of final grade): Students are expected to attend each class on time and contribute to class discussions. Students are also expected to participate in all classroom activities such as small group discussions and presentations. Attendance will be taken for each class. Any unexcused absences will result in a reduction of this part of the student's grade by ten (10) points per unexcused absence. 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: The use of lap tops is permitted only for purposes related to the course. All cell phones, iPods, and any other 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) Discussion Forums (40% of final grade): The discussion forums are the most important aspect of the hybrid course in the sense of comprehending the subject matter. There are 5 forums for this course. Most of the content discussion will take place in these forums. The forums will have several topic threads related to the main theme of the forum. Students are required to contribute their comments to each topic thread. These are meant to be open, threaded conversations about various topics related to the course. Students' posts will be graded based on your understanding of the reading assignments and the development of ideas through interaction in the forums with the professor and other students. Each forum will be graded on a range from 0-5 points.

3) Quizzes (40% of final grade): Four quizzes will occur on a regular basis to test the students' grasp of ideas and concepts under discussion. The quizzes will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and essay questions. The quizzes will be made available on Sakai: Tests and Quizzes, according to the schedule below. Once you begin the quiz, you will have a set time limit to complete it. If you submit an uncompleted quiz by mistake, you must contact me. I will determine if you deserve to retake the quiz.

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 purpose of quizzes, tests, and papers, as applicable to each course, a grade of A- (90-92) will be used and is equivalent to 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 estimations of your grade. Final grades will be calculated according to the percentages listed above. 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 dsoffice@echo.rutgers.edu) to discuss accommodations.

Course Outline and Reading Assignments:

7/6 Mon. 1st in-class meeting: Review of syllabus and Sakai course site, Introduction to the Quran. (You can access the readings through the Sakai link Resources:Required Readings.)

Textbook: Abdel Haleem, Introduction, pp. ix-xxxvi.

Sakai: Resources: Required Reading: Frederick M. Denny, Chapter 6, “The Nature and Function of the Qur’an,” in *An Introduction to Islam*; OrderofSurahs, NadimSuraSequence, DenfferManuscripts.

7/8 Wed. 2nd in-class meeting: The Quranic Concept of Revelation

Textbook: Abdel Haleem. *The Qur’an: A New Translation* (Read passages from index key words: Qur’an, revelation, scripture)

Library Resource: *Encyclopedia of the Qur’an*, articles “Book” and “Revelation and Inspiration.” (These are also available on Sakai Resources.)

Sakai: Resources: Required Reading: Abdallah Saeed, “Rethinking ‘Revelation’ as a Precondition for Reinterpreting the Qur’an: A Qur’anic Perspective.” in *Journal of Qur’anic Studies*, Vol. 1, Issue 1, 1999, pp. 93-114.

7/8-7/13 Quiz 1: mixed question format based on all the readings from the 1st in-class meeting. The quiz will open 7/8 at 1:00 pm and close 7/13 at 9:00 am.

7/8-7/13 Online Session 1: Forum 1: continue discussions on the readings and topics of the first week. The forum will open 7/8 at 1:00 pm and close 7/13 at 8:00 am.

7/13 Mon. 3rd in-class meeting: The Hadith

Sakai: Resources: Required Reading: Frederick M. Denny, Chapter 7, “The Prophet’s Sunna as Preserved in the Hadith,” in *An Introduction to Islam*; VersesonSunnah and ExampleIsnad.

7/13-7/16 Quiz 2: essay question on Saeed’s article “Rethinking Revelation.” The quiz will open 7/13 at 1:00 pm and close 7/16 at 11:59 pm.

7/15 Wed. 4th in-class meeting: Overview of Tafsir

Library Resource: *Encyclopedia of the Qur’an*, articles “Exegesis of the Qur’ān: Classical and Medieval” and “Exegesis of the Qur’ān: Early Modern and Contemporary” (These are also available on Sakai Resources.)

Sakai: Resources: Required Reading: Marston Speight, “The Function of Hadith as Commentary on the Qur’an, as Seen in the Six Authoritative Collections” in *Approaches to the History of the Interpretation of the Qur’an*, pp. 63-81.

7/15-7/20 Online Session 2: Forum 2: topic discussions on hadith and tafsir. The forum will open 7/15 at 1:00 pm and close 7/20 at 8:00 am.

7/20 Mon. 5th in-class meeting: Creation and Nature

Textbook: Abdel Haleem. *The Qur'an: A New Translation* (Read passages from index key word: creation)

Library Resource: *Encyclopedia of the Qur'an*, articles "Creation" and "Nature as Signs" and "Science and the Qur'an"

Sakai: Resources: Required Reading: CreationinQuran

7/20-7/23 Quiz 3: mixed question format on hadith and tafsir. The quiz will open 7/20 at 1:00 pm and close 7/23 at 11:59 pm.

7/22 Wed. 6th in-class meeting: Creation, Adam, Eve, and Satan

Textbook: Abdel Haleem, *The Qur'an: A new translation*. (Read passages from index key word: Adam, angels, jinn, Satan)

Library resource: *Encyclopedia of the Quran*, articles "Adam and Eve", "Angel", "Devil" and "Jinn"

Sakai: Resources: Required Reading: AdamEveStories

7/22-7/27 Online Session 3: Forum 3: topic discussions on creation, Adam, Eve, and Satan. The forum will open 7/22 at 1:00 pm and close 7/27 at 8:00 am.

7/27 Mon. 7th Mandatory in-class meeting: Women in the Quran

Textbook: Abdel Haleem, *The Qur'an: A new translation*. (Read passages from index key word: divorce, marriage, polygamy, wives, women)

Sakai: Resources: Required Reading: WomeninQuran.

7/29 Wed. 8th in-class meeting: Women in the Quran (continued)

Sakai: Resources: Required Reading:

Asma Barlas, "Chapter 1: "The Qur'an and Muslim Women: Reading Patriarchy, Reading Liberation," in *Believing Women in Islam*, pp. 1-28

Mohamed Mahmoud, "To Beat or Not to Beat: On the Exegetical Dilemmas Over Qur'an, 4:34," in *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Vol. 126, No. 4, 2006, pp. 537-550

M.A.S. Abdel Haleem, "Euphemism in the Qur'an: A Case Study of Marital Relations as Depicted in Q. 2:222-3," in *Journal of Qur'anic Studies*, Vol. 13, No. 1, 2011, pp. 125-131

7/29-8/3 Online Session 4: Forum 4: topic discussions on women in the Quran. The forum will open 7/29 at 1:00 pm and close 8/3 at 8:00 am.

8/3 Mon. 9th in-class meeting: Relations with non-Muslims

Textbook: Abdel Haleem, *The Qur'an: A new translation*. (Read passages from index key word: believers, Children of Israel, Christians, disbelievers, Jews and Judaism, People of the Book, and polytheism)

Library Resources: *Encyclopedia of the Quran*, articles "Christians and Christianity", "Idolatry and Idolaters", "Jews and Judaism", "People of the Book" and "Polytheism and Atheism"

Sakai: Resources: Required Reading: PeopleoftheBook

8/3-8/6 Quiz 4: essay question based on the Barlas chapter. The quiz will open 8/3 at 1:00 pm and close 8/6 at 11:59 pm.

8/5 Wed. 10th in-class meeting: Jihad and War

Textbook: Abdel Haleem, *The Qur'an: A new translation*. (Read passages from index key word: war and warfare)

Library Resources: *Encyclopedia of the Quran*, articles "Fighting", "Jihād" "War"

Sakai: Resources: Required Reading: JihadinQuran

8/5-8/12 Online Session 5: Forum 5: topic discussions on non-Muslims and Jihad. The forum will open 8/5 at 1:00 pm and close 8/12 at 8:00 am.

8/10 Mon. 11th in-class meeting: Jihad and War (continued)

8/12 Wed. Summer Session Ends