

Rutgers University Dept. of Religion (848-932-9641) Summer III 2016
840:203:H1 (685:233:H1) Hybrid Course Islamic Scriptures
In-Class Meetings MW (10:15-12:05) 7/11, 7/13, 7/18, 7/20, 7/25, 7/27, 8/1, 8/3, 8/8, 8/10, 8/15
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 Forum (20% of final grade): The discussion forums are an 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 (30% of final grade): There will be three quizzes given 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.

4) Writing Assignments (30% of final grade): Two writing assignments are due based on the schedule below. The assignments are meant to be a focused discussion on a specific topic related to the Quran. The paper should be a minimum of 1500 words. The paper must be properly referenced and have a bibliography.

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.

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:

7/11 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*.

7/13 Wed. 2nd in-class meeting: Collection of the Quran

Library Resource: *Encyclopedia of the Qur'an*, articles "Collection of the Quran" and "Codices of the Quran." (These are also available on Sakai Resources in PDF format.)

Sakai: Resources: Required Reading: OrderofSurahs, NadimSuraSequence, DenfferManuscripts

7/13-7/18 Online Session 1: Forum 1: continue discussions on the readings and topics of the first week. The forum will open 7/13 at 1:00 pm and close 7/18 at 8:00 am.

7/13-7/20 Quiz 1: mixed question format based on the readings for this week. The quiz will open 7/13 at 1:00 pm and close 7/20 at 9:00 am.

7/18 Mon. 3rd 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 in PDF format.)

7/20 Wed. 4th in-class meeting: The Quranic Concept of Revelation (continued)

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.

7/20-7/25 Online Session 2: Forum 2: topic discussions on revelation. The forum will open 7/20 at 1:00 pm and close 7/25 at 9:00 am.

7/20-7/27 Quiz 2: essay question on Saeed's article "Rethinking Revelation." The quiz will open 7/27 at 1:00 pm and close 7/27 at 9:00 am.

7/25 Mon. 5th 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*; Verses on Sunnah and Example Isnad.

7/27 Wed. 6th in-class meeting: Overview of Tafsir

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.

7/27-8/1 Online Session 3: Forum 3: topic discussions on hadith and tafsir. The forum will open 7/27 at 1:00 pm and close 8/1 at 9:00 am.

7/27-8/3 Quiz 3: mixed question format on hadith and tafsir. The quiz will open 7/27 at 1:00 pm and close 8/3 at 9:00 am.

8/1 Mon. 7th in-class meeting: Creation, Science and the Quran

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" (These are also available on Sakai Resources in PDF format.)

Sakai: Resources: Required Reading: Creation in Quran

8/1-8/10 1st Writing Assignment: research paper on a specific topic in the Quran. The assignment will be available from 8/1 at 6:00 am until 8/10 at 9:00 am.

8/3 Wed. 8th in-class meeting: 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" (These are also available on Sakai Resources in PDF format.)

Sakai: Resources: Required Reading: AdamEveStories

8/3-8/8 Online Session 4: Forum 4: topic discussions on creation, Adam, Eve, and Satan. The forum will open 8/3 at 1:00 pm and close 8/8 at 9:00 am.

8/8 Mon. 9th 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: 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; WomeninQuran.

8/8-8/17 Online Session 5: Forum 4: multiple topic discussions on women, non-Muslims, and Jihad. The forum will open 8/8 at 1:00 pm and close 8/17 at 9:00 am.

8/10 Mon. 10th 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 "Idolatry and Idolaters," "Polytheism and Atheism," "People of the Book," "Jews and Judaism," and "Christians and Christianity", and (These are also available on Sakai Resources in PDF format.)

Sakai: Resources: Required Reading: PeopleoftheBook

8/10-8/17 2nd Writing Assignment: research paper on a specific topic in the Quran. The assignment will be available from 8/10 at 6:00 am until 8/18 at 9:00 am.

8/15 Wed. 11th 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

8/17 Wed. No in-class meeting. Complete online assignments. Summer Session Ends.