

UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON -- NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

Electronically submit this completed form with attachments in one file to the Chair of the College Curriculum Committee.

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|---|--|--|---|
| COLLEGE (check one): | Arts and Sciences <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Business <input type="checkbox"/> | Education <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Proposal Submitted By: Mehdi Aminrazavi | Date Prepared: 12/1/2016 | | |
| Course Title: Muhammad and the Qur'an | | | |
| Department/discipline and course number*: | CPR/Religion 253 (will also be accepted in Middle Eastern Studies Minor) | | |
| Prerequisites: | None | | |

*This course number must be approved by the Office of the Registrar before the proposal is submitted.

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|---|---|--|------------|---|------------|
| Number of credits: | 3 | Will this course meet for at least 700 contact minutes for each credit hour proposed? <i>If no, provide a credit hour justification.</i> | YES | X | NO |
| Will this be a new, repeatable "special topics" course? (Do you want students to be able to take this new course more than once if the topic changes?) | | | NO | X | YES |

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|--|------------------|---|------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Date of first offering of this new course: | Spring 2018 | | | | |
| Proposed frequency of offering of the course: | Every other year | | | | |
| List the faculty who will likely teach the course: | Mehdi Aminrazavi | | | | |
| Are ANY new resources required? | NO | X | YES | Document in attached impact statement | |

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|--|---|-----------------------|---|---------------------|--|
| This new course will be (check all that apply): | | | | | |
| Required in the major | | Required in the minor | | General Elective | |
| Elective in the major | X | Elective in the minor | X | General Education** | |

**AFTER the new course is approved, a separate proposal must be sent to the General Education Committee.

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| Catalog Description (suggested length – less than 50 words): | |
| In this course, the life of Prophet Muhammad with special emphasis on his sayings (Hadith literature) will be studied first, followed by an in-depth study of the Qur'an. Verses of the Quran will be analyzed and interpreted particularly those that are in dialogue with Judaism and Christianity. | |

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|--|---|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| COURSE HISTORY: | Was this course taught previously as a topics or experimental course? | YES | X | NO |
| Course Number and Title of Previous Course | | Semester Offered | Enrollment | |
| Religion 331SS | | Spring 2016 | 10 | |
| | | | | |
| <p>CHECK HERE if the proposed course is to be equated with the earlier topics or experimental offerings. If equated, students who took the earlier "topics" course will only be able to take the new course as a repeat (C- grade or lower).</p> <p>NOTE: If the proposed course has not been previously offered as a topics or experimental course, explain in the attached rationale statement why the course should be adopted even though it has not been tried out.</p> | | | | |

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:

1. **Rationale Statement** – Why is this course needed? What purposes will it serve?
2. **Credit Hour Justification** (if required) – explain how this course will comply with the UMW Credit Hours Policy (D.5.3)
3. **Impact Statement** – Provide details about the Library, space, staffing, budget, and technology impacts created by adding this new course. Include supporting statements from the Library, IT Department, etc.
Any change that impacts another Department must have a written statement (such as a copy of an email) from the Chair(s) agreeing to the change.
4. **Sample Syllabus**

Department Chair Approval: Craig Vasey

Date: Jan 23 2017

CCC Chair Approval: Surupa Gupta

Date: 01/23/2017

UCC Chair Approval: Patricia Reynolds

Date: 2/13/2017

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:

1. Rationale Statement – Why is this course needed? What purposes will it serve?

One out of every five people in the world is a Muslim. This much used and abused religion is founded on the basis of the teachings of Muhammad and the Qur'an. This course is needed in order to familiarize students to Islam based on its primary literature.

2. Credit Hours Justification

This class will meet three times a week and is in compliance with UMW credit hours policy.

3. Impact Statement – Provide details about the Library, space, and staffing, budget, and technology impacts created by adding this new course.

N/A---None of the above except the use of library is needed.

5. Sample Syllabus

This course was taught by our adjunct, Shahid M. Khan and the following syllabus is his. I intend to follow this closely although I will be focusing more on the ecumenical verses of the Quran.

RELIGION331S Muhammad and the Quran 2016

For Muslims throughout history, Muhammad (570–632) has provided a model for their daily lives as individuals and communities. Considered the final prophet in a chain of prophecy that includes figures such as Adam, Abraham, Moses and Jesus, Muhammad has been revered as the paragon of virtue, a great legislator and statesman, and the perfect mystic who has attained the heights of spiritual realization. Furthermore, like prophetic figures before him, Muhammad is believed to have been the recipient of Divine revelation, a revelation, or scripture, known as the Qur'an.

This course introduces students to the Prophet of Islam and the Quran, with an implicit understanding that the two are inextricably connected. The life and teachings of Muhammad, contained in the literature known as the *Sira* (biography) and the *Hadith* (sayings or traditions), not only provides frames of reference and contexts for many of the Qur'anic verses, but they also represent the first scriptural commentary and an extension of its teachings. We will examine subject matters thematically: the nature of God, the nature of human beings, the world, prophets/prophethood, Law, eschatology, the afterlife, view(s) on other religions, and so forth.

Through scrutiny of the earliest biographical resources on Muhammad, analysis of selected Quranic verses, and consideration of key academic materials, this course aims to familiarize students with the range of perspectives and interpretations on the Prophet and the Qur'an, both Muslim and non-Muslim. Each session will be divided into two halves. The first half will consist of a lecture delivered by the instructor, while the second half will proceed as an interactive in-class discussion, where students will be encouraged to exercise critical analysis, pose questions for conversation, and exchange ideas with the other students in class.

Course requirements

Grades are determined on the following basis: three short reflection papers (25%), a Mid-term exam (25%), a take-home final exam (25%), and attendance and class participation (25%).

Required Readings

1. Lings, Martin. *Muhammad: His Life Based on the Earliest Sources*. Cambridge: Islamic Texts Society, 1998.

2. Brockopp, Jonathan. *The Cambridge Companion to Muhammad*, Cambridge University Press, 2010.
3. Nasr, Seyyed Hossein; Caner K. Dagli; Maria Massi Dakake; Joseph Lumbard; Mohammed Rustom. *The Study Quran: A New Translation and Commentary*. New York: HarperOne, Imprint of HarperCollins, 2015.

SYLLABUS

Week One

Introduction – Methods and Approaches to the Study of Islam, the Prophet, and the Qur'an in the Past and in the Present

Week Two

Historical Contexts: The Near East and Arabia

Readings:

Donner, "Near East on Eve of Islam," from *Muhammad and the Believers*
 Hoyland, "The Setting," from *In God's Path*
 Taylor, "Arabia before Muhammad"

Week Three

Pre-Islamic Arabia and Muhammad's Life Before Prophethood

Readings:

Lings, Chapters 1–14
 Brockopp, Chapter 1 "Age of Ignorance" (EQ) "Mecca" (EQ)

Week Four Meccan Period

Readings:

Lings, Chapters 14–30
 Brockopp, Chapter 2
 Peters, "The Quest for the Historical Muhammad"
 "Companions of the Prophet" (EQ)
 "Ali b. Abi Talib" (EQ) "Family of the Prophet" (EQ)

Week Five

End of Meccan Period and Emigration

Readings:

Lings, Chapters 31–39 "Ascension" (EQ) "Emigration" (EQ)

Week Six

Medinan Period and the Battles of Badr and Uhud

Readings:

Lings, Chapters 41–52
 Brockopp, Chapter 4 "Badr" (EQ)
 "Constitutions of Medina"
 "Expeditions and Battles" (EQ) "Medina" (EQ)

Week Seven

Conquest of Mecca, Farewell Pilgrimage and the Death of the Prophet

Readings:

Lings, Chapters 74, 75, 77–78, 81–85 “Farewell Pilgrimage”

Week Eight

Spring Break

Week Nine

Qur'an and Hadith: Compilation of the Qur'an and the Shaping of the Book Definition of Hadith and Sunnah

Readings:

Al-Azami, “The Islamic View of the Quran” Gilliot, “Creation of a Fixed Text,” 41–58 Burton, “Collection of the Qur'an”

Brown, *Hadith: Muhammad's Legacy*, Chapters 1–3

Week Ten

Major Themes of the Qur'an

Readings:

Nasr, “General Introduction,” xxiii-I Mattson, “How to Read the Quran” Madigan, “Themes and Topics”

A. Oneness of God (Tawhīd) B. God's Attributes C. The Human Being D. Nature Quran: 1;2:29-30; 2:115-117; 2:186; 2:255; 3:26-30, 83; 5:64; 7:180; 10:55-67;13:12- 18; 16: 1-25; 24: 35-37; 30:11-27; 57:1-3; 59:21-24; 112

Week Eleven

Names of the Quran, Religion (Dīn), Prophethood, Scriptures

Readings:

Wheeler, “Moses” Rubin, “Abraham”

Rubin, “Prophets and Prophethood”

Qur'an 2:135-141, 252-253, 284-286; 3:81-85; 4:150-152; 6:83-90. Abraham: 2:124-141; 3: 65-68, 95-97; 6: 74-82; 11:69-76; 19:41-50; 21: 51-75. Moses: 7:103-162; 5: 20-26; 20:9 104. Joseph: 12 (entire chapter) Mary and Jesus: 19:16-40; 3: 31-63; 4: 157-159, 171-172; 5:46, 72-77, 109-118. The Prophet Muhammad: 2:23; 3:31, 123-125,179;

4:163; 5:15, 83; 9:128; 17:1, 79. 88; 20:1; 26:192-197; 33:6-7, 21-22, 108, 40-48, 57; 36:1; 37:37; 48: 10, 29; 49:7; 52:34; 53:1-18; 54:1-2; 61:6; 68:4-5; 73:1; 74:1; 94

Week Twelve

Eschatology, Heaven and Hell Shariah, Sacred

Rites, Virtue and Vice **Readings:**

Yusuf, “Death, Dying and the Afterlife in the Quran” “Paradise” (EQ)

“Hell” (EQ) “Eschatology” (EQ)

Quran: 55, 73–77, 81–89, 91–114

Week Thirteen

Community, Society, Government and Politics; War and Peace; Gender Relations; Marriage and family Relations

Readings:

Asfaruddin, “Where Earth and Heaven Meet: Remembering Muhammad as Head of State”

Dakake, “Quranic Ethics, Human Rights, and Society”

Dagli, “Conquest and Conversion, War and Peace in the Quran”

Qur'an 2:83, 187, 221-237; 4: 1-5, 19-26, 32-35, 127-130; 5: 5; 6:140, 151; 8: 28, 75; 9: 24; 16: 72; 17: 23-24; 18: 46; 24: 30-31, 58-60; 30:21; 31: 13-15; 33: 6, 28-36, 49-59;

34:37; 46:15; 58: 1-4; 60: 10-12; 63: 9; 64: 14-15.

War and Peace in Qur'an

READING: 25: 52, 2: 291, 2:194, 29: 69, 22: 78, 2: 256, 16: 125, 2: 251, 4: 75, 8:39, 9: 13, 22:39, 8: 60, 2:19, 32: 216. 4: 74-76. 8: 65, 9: 5, 9: 29, 9:3, 69:38, 9: 41, 9:73, 9:111, & 47: 4

Week Fourteen

Islam's Relation to Other Religions in Theory and in Practice

Readings:

Lumbard, "The Quranic View of Sacred History and Others Religions" Sachedina, "The Qur'an and other Religions"

Qur'an 2:62, 87, 111–113, 136, 177, 284–286; 3:19-32, 64, 113–115, 120, 194, 199; 4:136, 150–152, 163–165; 5:5,12-19, 43-51, 5:59-85; 6:42–44, 84–91; 10:47; 11:120; 12:109-111; 13:38; 14:4; 16:36; 22:67–69; 42:13

Week Fifteen

Presentations

Week Sixteen Presentations

Concluding Remarks