

## EMT 3101HF Biography and Thought: The Life of Muhammad

### General Information

Instructor:	Nevin Reda El-Tahry E-mail: <a href="mailto:nevin.el.tahry@utoronto.ca">nevin.el.tahry@utoronto.ca</a>
Office Hours:	W 11:00 – 12:00
Office	EM 215
Class time:	T 2:00 – 4:00
Room:	EM 205

### Course Description

This seminar studies the life of the Prophet Muhammad as it is presented in the earliest biographical and historical Muslim accounts. It introduces the *sira* and hadith literatures, in addition to classical and modern critical methods used to determine their authenticity and historical reliability. Topics include the first revelations, emigration from Mecca, the Constitution of Medina, and succession to Muhammad's leadership. Students will learn about Muslim concepts of prophethood, the significance of the prophet in the legal-ethical and mystical traditions, and women in hadith scholarship. They will study the life of Muhammad and relate it to his spiritual as well as temporal experience to explore modern-day concerns. Class participation: 15%, Minor Research Paper: 35 %, Major research paper: 50 %.

### EMT 3101 Learning Outcomes

Students who have successfully completed the course will:

#### Religious Faith and Heritage

- Demonstrate knowledge of religious heritage, and articulate clearly their own theological positions (as related to pastoral practices).
- Interpret scripture and religious texts using a variety of methods, sources, and norms.
- Identify and respect the diversity of theological viewpoints and practices within their religious tradition.

#### Culture and Context

- Demonstrate critical understanding for one's area of specialization of the relationship between faith practices and cultural contexts.
- Give evidence of critical self-awareness with regard to their own—and others'—faith perspectives and practices of educational ministry.

#### Practices of Area of Specialization

- Demonstrate knowledge of theories and practices relevant to leadership in their own area of specialization.

### Required Textbooks

1. 'Abd al-Malik ibn Hisham, *The life of Muhammad: a translation of Ishāq's Sīrat rasūl Allāh*, with introduction and notes by A. Guillaume. (London : Oxford University Press, 1955).

2. Jonathan Brown, *Hadith: Muhammad's Legacy in the Medieval and Modern World* (Richmond: Oneworld, 2009).

### **Additional Bibliography**

3. Jonathan E. Brockopp (ed.), *The Cambridge companion to Muḥammad* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010).
4. Brown, Jonathan. *Misquoting Muhammad: the challenge and choices of interpreting the Prophet's legacy*. London: Oneworld, 2014.
5. Gregor Schoeler, *The Biography of Muḥammad: Nature and Authenticity*, transl. Uwe Vagelpohl (London: Routledge, 2011).
6. Annemarie Schimmel, *And Muhammad is His Messenger* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1985).
7. Ramadan al-Buti, *The Jurisprudence of the Prophetic Biography*, translated by Nancy Roberts (Damascus: Dar al-Fikr, 2006).
8. Muhammad al-Ghazali, *Fiqh-us-seerah: Understanding the Life of Prophet Muhammad* (Riyadh: International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations, IIFSO: Distribution by International Islamic Pub. House, 1999).
9. Yusuf Al-Qaradawi, *Approaching the Sunnah: Comprehension and Controversy* (International Institute of Islamic Thought, 2007).
10. Muhammad al-Ghazali, *The Sunna of the Prophet: The People of Fiqh versus the People of Hadith*, translated by A.H. Bewley, M.I. Waley and Aisha Abdurrahman Bewley (Dar Al Taqwa Ltd, 2009)
11. G. H. A. Juynboll, *The Authenticity of the Tradition Literature; Discussions in Modern Egypt* (Leiden E.J. Brill 1969).
12. Carl W. Ernst, *Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World* (Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press, 2003).
13. Jean-Louis Michon and Roger Gaetani (eds), *Sufism: Love and Wisdom* (Bloomington: World Wisdom, 2006).
14. Harald Motzki, *Analyzing Muslim Traditions: Studies in Legal, Exegetical and Maghazi Hadith* (Leiden: Brill, 2012)
15. Omid Safi, *Memories of Muhammad: Why the Prophet Matters* (New York, NY : HarperCollins, 2009).
16. Tariq Ramadan, *The Messenger: The Meanings of the Life of Muhammad* (London: Allen Lane, 2007).
17. Tariq Ramadan, *In the Footsteps of the Prophet: Lessons from the Life of Muhammad* (Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2007).
18. Martin Lings, *Muhammad: His Life Based on the Earliest Sources* (Rochester, Vt.: Inner Traditions, c2006).
19. Khalid Tarifi, *Images of Muhammad: Narratives of the Prophet in Islam Across the Centuries* (New York: Doubleday, 2009).
20. Karen Armstrong, *Muhammad: A Biography of the Prophet* (London : Phoenix, 2009).
21. Gordon Darnell Newby, *The Making of the Last Prophet: A Reconstruction of the Earliest Biography of Muhammad* (Columbia: University of. South Carolina Press, 1989).

## The Quran in Translation

For the meaning of the Qur'an, students are welcome to use any of the translations of the following scholars: Abdullah Yusuf Ali, Marmaduke Pickthall, Laleh Bakhtiar, Muhammad Abdel Haleem and Ahmad Zaki Hammad. 'Abdullah Yusuf 'Ali's *The Meaning of the Holy Qur'an* is one of the oldest and tends to be the most widely disseminated. It is available on-line. Bakhtiar's *The Sublime Qur'an* has the advantage of formal equivalence: she tries to use the same English word for the same Arabic word consistently. Students have found Hammad's *The Gracious Quran: A Modern-Phrased Interpretation in English* to be very smooth and easy to understand. Abdel Haleem's translation tends to be popular in academic circles.

## Evaluation and Assignments

*Each student should know from the outset that this course requires daily reading, both written and oral assignments and regular class participation. More than two unexcused absences will negatively affect the student's grade. Any student with more than four unexcused absences will receive an automatic failing grade, without possibility of supplemental examination.*

<i>Component</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Class Participation	15 %	N/A
Minor Research	35 %	Nov. 3 <sup>rd</sup> @ 11:00 am
Major Research Paper	50 %	Dec. 8 <sup>st</sup> @ 11:00 am

All essays and assignments must be handed in on time. Penalty for late assignments is 2% reduction in mark per day of lateness. Assignments will not be accepted after two weeks of the due date. Academic accommodation will only be considered when appropriate documentation (an official U of T medical certificate) is provided within ONE week of the due date. At all time, students are expected to do their own work. Plagiarism--to represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work—is a serious academic offense and will not be tolerated. Students who plagiarize run the risk of suspension and other sanctions. For the definition of "academic work," tribunal procedures, and more, see <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>. For advice on academic writing, go to <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca> . If you wish to book an appointment with a writing instructor for individual help, go to [http://www.vic.utoronto.ca/students/tutorialservices/Writing\\_Centre.htm](http://www.vic.utoronto.ca/students/tutorialservices/Writing_Centre.htm). Make sure you book your appointment as early as possible.

Normally, students will be required to submit their research papers to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site. (www.Turnitin.com)

For instructions on how to submit your paper through Turnitin, see course website. Both an electronic copy and a paper copy are required and must be handed in on time.

Students not wishing to submit their work through Turnitin must contact the instructor and set up a meeting by September 25<sup>th</sup> in order to discuss alternative arrangements.

**a. Attendance and Class Participation**

Attendance is mandatory. More than two unexcused absences will negatively affect a student's grade. More than four absences without proper documentation (an official U of T medical certificate provided within one week of the absence) will receive an automatic FZ. Students are expected to attend class and to come prepared. You should expect to devote 3 hours or more outside of class for every hour of classroom instruction. Use this time to prepare the required readings and primary texts in advance. Always be ready to provide a brief summary of each reading, list the main points and explain how the readings relate to one another. Your class participation mark will reflect your participation in classroom discussions and two oral presentations on your research papers. Presentation dates will be determined on the first day of class.

**b. Minor Research Paper:**

The Prophet Muhammad's Leadership Through Modern Eyes

The prophet Muhammad is not only a role model for Muslims, but he is also one of the most influential leaders of all time, which makes his leadership worthy of further study. This assignment is a foray into interdisciplinary studies, exploring the biography of the prophet Muhammad in conjunction with leadership studies from the realm of business management. Students will focus on two theories, exploring their strengths and weaknesses, and one major event in the prophet's life, relating them to the world around them and the contexts of today. Events, theories and relevant bibliography will be handed out on the first day of class. Your papers should be 8-10 pages in double-spaced 12 pt Times New Roman font.

**c. Major Research Paper**

For this research topic, you may choose any second topic of your choice, as long as it is directly related to the course. You will not be provided with a bibliography, but will need to research it on your own. This assignment should be 15-20 pages in double-spaced 12 pt Times New Roman font.

For both assignments, footnotes and bibliography should consistently follow either

Turabian's *Manual of Style* or *Chicago Manual of Style*

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/1/>. Your paper must include the following:

Title page. This includes the paper title, the student's name, the course code and name, the name of the instructor and the date of submission.

Introduction. The most important part of the Introduction is the thesis statement, setting out in the briefest possible form the exact proposition or hypothesis which the paper will demonstrate. The Introduction also provides the context necessary to show why the paper is important. To this end it identifies the research question and describes its broader setting in academic research. It gives attention to previous enquiry and available secondary literature (the *status quaestionis*). The Introduction should also include a description of the project as a whole (i.e. a one-paragraph road map outlining what you plan to do).

If you want, you can also include a section on method, for example, describing the relevant primary literature and the methods to be used for interpreting it.

Your introduction should not exceed one or two pages, depending on the length of your paper. Some students like to write two or three paragraphs: one with the thesis statement, one with the road map, and one on the state of the scholarship.

Exposition. The main body of the paper is the clarification, development, and demonstration of the thesis statement, using authoritative evidence. The exposition is typically organized as parts of an argument. The interrelationship of the parts of the exposition, and the direct relevance of each part of the exposition to the thesis statement, should be clear to the reader.

Conclusion. The thesis statement should be recapitulated, the demonstration should be summarized, the limitations of the demonstration and the remaining uncertainties should be acknowledged, and the implications of the study for the faith community, the wider scholarly community, and/or the world should be set forth.

Bibliography. Books, articles, and other sources that have been used must be listed. Primary and secondary literature should always be distinguished.

(This description is derived from the TST Basic Degree thesis requirements with some modifications.)

### Grading scale

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalents	Grade Point	Grasp of Subject Matter	Other qualities expected of students
<b>A RANGE: Excellent: Student shows original thinking, analytic and synthetic ability, critical evaluations, broad knowledge base.</b>				
A+	90-100	4.0	Profound and Creative	Strong evidence of original thought, of analytic and synthetic ability; sound and penetrating critical evaluations which identify assumptions of those they study as well as their own; mastery of an extensive knowledge base
A	85-89	4.0	Outstanding	
A-	80-84	3.7	Excellent	Clear evidence of original thinking, of analytic and synthetic ability; sound critical evaluations; broad knowledge base
<b>B RANGE: Good: Student shows critical capacity and analytic ability, understanding of relevant issues, familiarity with the literature.</b>				
B+	77-79	3.3	Very Good	Good critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; good familiarity with the literature
B	73-76	3.0	Good	
B-	70-72	2.7	Satisfactory at a post-baccalaureate level.	Adequate critical capacity and analytic ability; some understanding of relevant issues; some familiarity with the literature
FZ	0-69	0	Failure	Failure to meet the above criteria

## **Accommodations**

Students with diverse learning styles are welcome in this course. If you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and /or the Accessibility Office as soon as possible. It takes time to put disability related accommodations in place. The sooner you meet with a Disability Counsellor at Accessibility Services, the quicker s/he can assist you to achieving your learning goals in this course. The University of Toronto is committed to facilitating the inclusion of students in all aspects of university life. For more go to [www.accessibility.utoronto.ca](http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca) or [accessibility.services@utoronto.ca](mailto:accessibility.services@utoronto.ca).

## **Schedule of Readings (may be subject to change):**

### **1 Sep. 15**

#### **Introduction**

##### Required Readings:

1. William R. Lafleur, "Biography," in Lindsay Jones (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Religion*, vol. 2. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2005), pp. 943-947. (available on-line through the library website)
2. Guillaume, pp. xiii-35.

### **2 Sep. 22**

#### **Pre-Islamic Arabia**

**Library research workshop with Karen Wishart from 3:00-4:00 pm in the electronic classroom over at the E. J. Pratt Library (Room 306)**

##### Required Readings:

1. Marshal Hodgson, "The world before Islam" in *The Venture of Islam: Conscience and History in a World Civilization* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1974), pp. 103-145. (available online through the U. of T. library catalogue)
2. Quran 99-114.
3. Guillaume, pp. 35-69.

##### Optional Readings:

4. Guillaume, pp. xiii-35.

### **3 Sep. 29**

#### **The Sources**

##### Required Readings:

1. Schoeler, *Biography*, 1-37.
2. Behnam Sadeghi and Mohsen Goudarzi, "Şan'ā' 1 and the Origins of the Qur'ān," *Der Islam* 87,1 (March 2012), pp. 1-36.

##### Optional Readings:

1. Guillaume, pp. 70-108.

4 Oct. 6

**The First Revelations**

Required Readings:

1. Sebastian Günther, "Muḥammad, the Illiterate Prophet: An Islamic Creed in the Qur'an and Qur'anic Exegesis" *Journal of Qur'anic Studies*, Volume 4, Issue 1 (2002), pp. 1 – 26. (available on-line through the library website)
2. Guillaume, pp. 108- 116.
3. Quran 96 (Recite), 97 (Power, Fate).

Optional Readings:

4. Quran 73 (The enshrouded one); 74 (The cloaked one); 18 (The cave).
5. Guillaume, pp. 117- 158.
6. Schoeler, *Biography*, pp. 38-79.

5 Oct. 13

**Prophecy and Poetry**

Required Readings:

1. Uri Rubin, "Prophets and Prophethood" in *Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an (EQ)*, edited by Jane Dammen McAuliffe. Vol. 4. (Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill Academic Publishers, 2004), pp. 289-307. (available on-line through the library website)
2. Matthias Zahniser, "Messenger" in *EQ* (available on-line through the library website)
3. P. E. Walker, "Wilāya (2. In Shi'ism)" in *EI2* (available on-line through the library website)
4. Valentine, S R. "Prophecy after the Prophet, albeit lesser prophets? The Ahmadiyya Jama'at in Pakistan," *Contemporary Islam* 8, no. 2 (2014), pp. 99 – 113.
5. Michael Zwettler, "A Mantic Manifesto: The Sura of "The Poets" and the Qur'anic Foundations of Prophetic Authority" in *Poetry and Prophecy: the Beginnings of a Literary Tradition*, edited by James L. Kugel (Ithaca : Cornell University Press, 1990), pp. 75-119.
6. Quran 26 (The Poets); 68 (The Pen).

6 Oct. 20

**Muhammad in Mecca**

1. Wilfred Madelung, "Isma" *EI2*
2. Shahab Ahmed, "Ibn Taymiyyah and the Satanic Verses," *Studia Islamica*, Issue 87 (1998), pp. 67 – 124. (available on-line through the library website)
3. Muhammad Husayn Haykal, "The Story of the Goddesses" in *the Life of Muhammad* (available on-line and on course website)

4. Quran 80 (He frowned); 2: 30-39
5. Guillaume, pp. 159-218

**Oct. 27**

**Reading Week: No Classes**

**7 Nov. 3**

**Emigration to Medina**

Required Readings:

1. Saïd Amir Arjomand, "The Constitution of Medina: A Sociological Interpretation of Muhammad's Acts of Foundation of the *Umma*" *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 41 (4) (November 2009), pg. 555-575. (available on-line through the library website)
2. Guillaume, pp. 219-246.

**Minor Paper due**

**8 Nov. 10**

**Hadith**

Required Readings:

1. Brown, "The Transmission and Collection of Prophetic Traditions" in *Hadith*, pp. 1-66.

Optional Readings:

2. Guillaume, pp. 281-432.

**9 Nov. 17**

**The Prophet as Lawmaker and Legal Authority**

1. Buti, "Introduction" in *Jurisprudence* (available on-line and on course website)
2. Brown, "The Methods and History of Hadith Criticism" and "The Function of Prophetic Traditions in Islamic Law and Legal Theory" in *Hadith*, pp. 67-122, 150-172.
3. Quran 59 (Exile)

Optional Readings:

4. Guillaume, pp. 433-490.

**10 Nov. 24**

**Muhammad and the Esoteric Dimension of Islam**



Required Readings:

1. Brown, "Prophetic Traditions in Shiite Islam" and "The Function of Prophetic Traditions in Sufism," pp. 123 -149, 184-196.
2. Denis Gril, "The Prophetic Model of the Spiritual Master in Islam," in Jean-Louis Michon and Roger Gaetani (eds), *Sufism: Love and Wisdom* (Bloomington: World Wisdom, 2006), pp. 63-88.
3. Guillaume, pp. 490-540.

**11 Dec. 1**

**Women and the Prophetic Tradition**

Required Readings:

1. Asma Sayeed, "Women and Hadīth Transmission: Two Case Studies from Mamluk Damascus," *Studia Islamica* 95 (2002), pp. 71-94.
2. Barbara Freyer Stowasser, "The Women's Bay'a in the Qur'an and Sira," *The Muslim World* 99, no. 1 (2009), pp. 86-101.
3. Nevin Reda, "Women in the Mosque: Historical Perspectives on Segregation," *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* 21, no. 2 (2004), pp. 77-97.

Optional Readings:

4. Fatima Mernissi, *The Veil and the Male Elite: A Feminist Interpretation of Women's Rights in Islam* (New York: Basic Books, 1991), pp. 62-84.

**Research paper due**

**12 Dec. 8**

**Muhammad in the Eyes of the West**

Required Readings:

1. Thomas Carlyle, "Lecture II. The Prophet as Hero. Mahomet: Islam" in *On Heroes, Hero-Worship and the Heroic in History* (Philadelphia: Altemus, 1899), pp. 59-105.
2. Tolan, "European Accounts of Muhammad's Life," in Brockopp, pp. 226-250.
3. Alan M. Guenther, "The Image of the Prophet as Found in Missionary Writings of the Late Nineteenth Century," *The Muslim World* Volume 90, Issue 1-2 (2000), pp. 43 – 70. (available on-line through the library website)

Optional Readings:

4. Quran 110 (Succour/Divine Support); 48 (Victory)
5. Guillaume, pp. 627-690