Course Description: This course will explore the two main sources of Islamic belief and practice: the Qur’an, and the recorded sayings of the Prophet Muhammad, the Hadith. We will discuss the major themes of the Qur’an and Hadith, as well as the way in which they were compiled, their literary quality and style, their role in Islamic religious life and the traditions of commentary upon them and critical analysis of them.

Course Objective: At the conclusion of this course, the student should be familiar with the textual style and thematic structure of the Qur’an and Hadith. The student should also be aware of the religious, legal and social teachings of the Qur’an and its role in Muslim life and thought. The student should have a general understanding of the different styles of commentary upon and analysis of the Qur’an and the Hadith, and the way in which these scholarly traditions have developed over time.

Class Procedures: This class meets twice a week, on Mondays and Wednesdays. Reading assignments will be given for each day, and students are expected to complete the reading assignment listed for a particular day before the time of class. The instructor will assume that this reading has been done by all students prior to class, and all students should be prepared to contribute to a discussion of the reading material. There are no in-class examinations in this course. Grades for this course will be based on three short essays, class participation/small assignments, and a take-home final examination. There will be three 5-page essays assigned during the course of the semester, and several small assignments either to be handed in, or to be posted to the blackboard discussion board. The quality of the student’s performance on small assignments and the quality and regularity of his/her contributions to class discussion will be the basis of his/her class participation grade. The take-home final examination will be distributed in the last week of class and will be due on Wednesday, May 9.

Required Reading:
5. Blackboard readings

Recommended websites:
- [bibleontheweb.com](http://bibleontheweb.com) (for an online, searchable bible for assigned biblical readings)
- [www.altafseer.org](http://www.altafseer.org) (for a few English and many Arabic commentaries on the Qur’an and supporting material)

Grade Evaluation:
Short essays: 45% (3 @ 15% each)
Class participation/small assignments: 25%
Take-Home Final: 30%

NOTE: The take-home final is mandatory. Students who fail to turn in the final examination will receive a failing grade for the class.
Students with disabilities:
If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at (703) 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Some Rules:
Attendance is mandatory for this class. Failure to attend and be an active presence in the classroom will adversely affect your grade.

An absence from class, even for an approved and acceptable reason, such as illness, does not excuse the student from knowing about any oral assignments, schedule changes or other instructions announced in class. Students who miss class are expected to contact other students or the instructor to learn about any announcements made in class. Students should arrange to get the notes from missed lecture material from another student.

Students should feel free to express their views on the ideas presented in the readings and in the lecture and class discussion, but all disagreements with the views of others must be expressed with respect and courtesy.

THERE WILL BE NO TOLERANCE FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE HONOR CODE. Any student caught cheating on an examination, or plagiarizing material in their essays from other authors (in print or on the Web) or other students will be referred to the Honor Committee without exception.

COURSE OUTLINE

Jan 23, 25  COURSE INTRODUCTION / THE QUR’AN AND ITS HISTORY
Abdel Haleem, ch. 1, 2

Jan 30, Feb 1  QUR’AN IN ISLAMIC BELIEF AND PRACTICE
Matts on, Story of the Qur’an, ch. 3 [blackboard]

Feb 6, 8  MECCAN REVELATIONS
Sells, Approaching the Qur’an: the Early Revelations, selections [blackboard]
Qur’an, ch. 6, 16, 50, 55

Feb 13, 15  REVELATION IN THE MEDINAN YEARS
Robinson, Discovering the Qur’an, ch. 10: “The Madinan Surahs” [blackboard]
Qur’an, ch. 4 (Women)

Feb 20, 22  QUR’ANIC THEMES: GOD AND HUMAN NATURE
Rahman, ch. 1, 2
Abdel Haleem, ch. 9, 10
[God] Qur’an 2 (115-117); 2 (186); 2 (255); 3 (26-30, 83); 5 (64); 7 (180); 10 (55-67); 13 (12-18); 24 (35-37); 30 (11-27); 35 (entire); 39 (entire)
[Human nature] Qur’an 2 (30-39); 20 (116-128); 6 (165); 7 (172-174); 10 (12-23); 11 (118-119); 16 (71-78); 18 (32-44); 39 (6-9); 41 (49-54); 50 (16-29); 86 (entire); 91 (entire); 95 (entire); 100 (entire); 103 (entire); 114 (entire)
Feb 27, 29  
**QUR’ANIC THEMES: ESCHATOLOGY**  
Rahman, ch. 6  
Abdel Haleem, ch. 7, 8  
Qur’an 2 (23-25); 3 (23-25); 4 (56-57); 5 (35-37); 7 (34-53); 8 (49-51); 9 (34-35, 72); 10 (7-10); 13 (20-26); 14 (13-18); 15 (45-50); 18 (30-31); 19 (61-63); 20 (74-76); 22 (18-25); 32 (17-22); 35 (31-37); 37 (40-74); 38 (49-58); 39 (71-75); 43 (66-78); 44 (40-57); 47 (15); 52 (17-28); 56 (1-56); 76 (1-22)

Mar 5**, 7  
**Essay 1 due**  
**THE PROPHETS OF THE QUR’AN**  
Rahman, ch. 5  
Abdel Haleem, ch. 10  
Qur’an 2 (284-286); 3 (81-85) 6 (83-90).

[Abraham] Qur’an 2 (124-141); 3 (65-68, 95-97); 6 (74-82); 11 (69-76); 19 (41-50); 21 (51-75).  
Biblical comparison: Genesis, ch. 18-22

***SPRING BREAK***

Mar 19, 21  
**THE PROPHETS OF THE QUR’AN**  
[Moses] Qur’an 7 (103-162); 5 (20-26); 20 (9-104).  
Biblical comparison: Exodus, ch. 19-21  

[Mary and Jesus] Qur’an 3 (31-63); 19 (16-40); 4 (150-159, 171-172); 5 (46, 72-77, 109-118).  

Mar 19, 21  
**QUR’ANIC VIEW OF OTHER RELIGIONS**  
Rahman, Appendix II  
Sachedina, “The Qur’an and Other Religions” [blackboard]  
Shah-Kazemi, *The Other in the Light of the One, “Islam: Quintessential and Universal Submission”* [blackboard]  
Qur’an 3 (19-32, 64-120); 5 (5, 12-19, 43-51, 59-85)

Mar 26**, 28  
**Essay 2 due**  
**COMMENTARY AND EXEGESIS ON THE QUR’AN**  
Qur’an 3 (7-9).  
McAuliffe, “The Tasks and Traditions of Interpretation” [blackboard]  
Kermani, “From Revelation to Interpretation: Nasir Hamid Abu Zayd and the Literary Study of the Qur’an” [blackboard]  
Ayoub, *The Qur’an and Its Interpreters* I, pp. 71-93. [blackboard]

Apr 2, 4  
**WESTERN CRITICAL STUDIES OF THE QUR’AN**  
Motzki, “Alternative Accounts of the Qur’an’s Formation” [blackboard]  
Jeffery, “A Variant Text of the Fatiha” [blackboard]  
INTRODUCTION TO HADITH / HADITH AND THEOLOGY

Brown, *Hadith*, ch. 1, 2 [blackboard]
*Forty Hadith Qudsi*, selections [blackboard]

HADITH ON ETHICS AND MORALITY

Qur’an 2 (153-157, 188-189, 215, 219-220, 254, 261-281); 3 (92, 130-136, 191-200);
4 (32-39, 43, 86, 148); 5 (8-9, 90-91); 6 (151-153); 7 (26-31, 55); 8 (28);
9 (23-24); 17 (23-39); 24 (22-33); 25 (63-72); 49 (entire); 60 (1-9); 104 (entire);
107 (entire)

RITUAL IN THE QUR’AN AND HADITH: The Hajj

Qur’an 2 (125-126, 158, 196-203); 3 (96-97); 22 (25-37); 5 (2-3, 95-97); 8 (34-36);
9 (1-7, 17-19, 28); 48 (25-27)
Hadith on hajj [blackboard]

SOCIAL ISSUES IN THE QUR’AN AND HADITH:
Marriage, Gender, and Family Relations

Barlas, “The Family and Marriage: Retrieving the Qur’an’s Egalitarianism” [blackboard]
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).
Hadith on marriage, gender and family relations [blackboard]

TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM DUE WED., MAY 9,
(in my department mailbox by 5 pm)