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Office: HSSCN2152
Office Hours: M, Th 1:00pm–2:30pm
or by appointment

His 100-01: Introduction to Historical Inquiry – The Prophet Muhammad
Fall 2023

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to issues of historical causation, argumentation, and evidence by exploring the life and impact of the prophet Muhammad on the Arabian Peninsula and West Asia in the early seventh century. We will begin with an introduction to the study of history and historical methods. From there, we will read a variety of primary and secondary sources in order to answer the question: Who was the Prophet Muhammad?

Course Requirements:

This is a seminar course. It is imperative that each student carefully read all of the assigned readings on time and come to class ready to participate in class discussion.

In this course, we will focus on reading primary texts and thinking about how to interpret them. Learning how to read and interpret primary texts is a deceptively complex task, so we will carry out this charge in a variety of ways, through formal and informal writing and through class discussion. It is vital that you prepare all of the readings and be open to the difficulty of this seemingly simple task.

In addition, there will be a series of formal assignments designed to push you to evaluate and re-evaluate primary texts. The final assignment will be an annotated bibliography for a research project on Muhammad. Each of the writing assignments is designed to promote a different way of reading history and to help push you to locate historical information from primary sources. They can also all be seen as different ways of preparing you for the final annotated bibliography, which requires you to envisage a project that employs the skills we will develop in this course.

All assignments must be submitted to pass the course. There is no penalty for early assignments. Late assignments will be penalized a third of a letter grade for every day late. Again, there is no penalty for early assignments. Repeat: there is no penalty for early assignments.

Grading:

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|------------------------|---------|
| x Assignment One (10%) | [Sep 1] |
| x Assignment Two (10%) | [Sep 8] |

- x Assignment Three (10%) [Oct 30]
- x Primary Source Presentation (5%) [Oct. 9, 11, 13]
- x Annotated Bibliography (35%) [Dec 8]
- x Final Presentation (5%) [Dec 6, 8, 10]
- x Participation (25%)

Learning Outcomes:

- x Learn how to identify primary and secondary sources.
- x Learn how to read and critically analyze primary and secondary sources.
- x Engage with history as a craft and a discipline.
- x Understand a variety of different concepts and methods for investigating and explaining the past.
- x Develop your skills of oral communication, dialogue, and classroom citizenship.
- x Gain a thorough understanding of the life of the Prophet Muhammad and the challenges of describing this life.

Course Policies:

- x I try always to prioritize belonging and generosity in our learning spaces. For both teachers and learners, this means respecting and remaining curious about others' individual experiences, traditions, and ideas; working toward critical distance from aspects of our own experiences; and maintaining openness to being unsettled by perspectives and experiences different from our own. I ask that all members of our course community consider equity of access in the ways we speak and engage others, share materials for exploration and discussion, and set examples when contributing to class

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Academic Honesty policy is located in the Student Handbook available online [link](#). The

Class12: Sept20

- 0 D • PiDnU5 — V K L Expeditions:An Early Biography of — m f ••,frans.Sean Anthony (NewYork: New York University Press2015), 3–59.[link](#)

Class13: Sept22

- 0 D • PiDnU5 — V K L Expeditions:An Early Biography of — m f ••,frans.Sean Anthony (NewYork: New York University Press2015), 60–108.[link](#)

Class14: Sept25

- 0 D • PiDnU5 — V K L Expeditions:An Early Biography of — m f ••,frans.Sean Anthony (NewYork: New York University Press2015), 109–66.[link](#)

Class15: Sept27

- Library Session1 @ HSSON2116.

Class16: Sept29

- SarahMaza,Thinking about History, 45–82.

Class17: Oct.2

- SarahMaza,Thinking about History, 83–117.

Class18: Oct.4

- “The Life of 0 X α D P P D N” NormanCalder,JawidMojaddedi, andAndrewRippin, Classical Islam: A Sourebook of ReligiousLiterature (New York: Routledge, 2013), 23–55.[link](#)

Class19: Oct.6

- A Midwife’s Tale [link](#)

Class20: Oct.9

- Presentation on Primary Sources

Class21: Oct.11

- Presentation on Primary Sources

Class22: Oct.13

- Presentation on Primary Sources

Fall Break

Class23: Oct.23

- Library Session2 @ Burling

Class24: Oct.25

- “Hadith” in NormanCalder,JawidMojaddedi, and Andrew Rippin, Classical Islam: A Sourebook of ReligiousLiterature (New York: Routledge, 2013), 55–86.[link](#)

Class25: Oct.27

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