

MWF 10:00 10:50pm

HSSC S2323

Instructor: Elias G. Saba

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Office: HSSC N2152

Office Hours: T 2:00pm-3:30pm;

F 8:30 9:50am

or by appointment

**His 100-01: Introduction to Historical Inquiry The Prophet Muhammad
Spring 2022**

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 reads all of the assigned readings on time and comes to class ready to participate in class discussion.

In this course, we will focus on the 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.

Class 2: Jan 26

- John Arnold, *History: A Very Short Introduction*, 1-14.
- Sarah Maza, *Thinking about History*, 1-9.
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· Assignment Two Due

Class 27: Apr 8

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