

Mohammad ﷺ and the Quran, the Messenger and the Message- “Understanding Islam through the Life of Its Messenger”

Mohammad ﷺ is universally known as the founder of the Islamic faith, the religion of submission to the will of God, as we know it today.

Prophet Mohammad ﷺ is undeniably one of the greatest figures in human history even to the non-Muslim, perhaps more today than ever if that is possible. Even for the secular westerner apart from any question of religious belief or faith, there are immediate benefits to be found in learning about the prophet of Islam. First, in view of the great and important role the Prophet ﷺ plays in the life of, and the lofty status he holds among approximately 1/5 of all humans. Prophet Mohammad ﷺ is described by Muslims as the walking Quran as his life, actions, and words were an embodiment of the holy Quran. With all the Islamophobia rhetoric and criticism of Shariah law coming from some American leaders, most Muslims assume the United States doesn't have a clear understanding of - or respect for – the Islamic faith, history and traditions.

May not be known to most Americans and Muslims alike, the highest court in the U.S. recognizes the incredible significance of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and his teachings as indicated by the larger-than-life frieze of the great 18 lawgivers

created and installed in the U.S. Supreme Court in the early 1930s, in remembrance of their contributions to legal history.

A thinking citizen of the world can hardly develop a rational and mature social consciousness without considering the life of the prophet, and the message he brought and its meaning to the Muslim community

With the fall of communism it has become particularly clear that global peace order and self-determination of peoples cannot be achieved without intelligent respect for Islam and the alienable right of Muslims to live their religion,

The second immediate benefit in understanding the life of the prophet ﷺ , therefore, is that it is a necessary step toward the understanding and tolerance without which world peace is in fact inconceivable.

For non-Muslims, one special advantage of learning about the life of Prophet Mohammad ﷺ is to have firsthand knowledge about his life and actions in order to establish an authentic point of reference from which to examine the biased stereotypes of Islam to which Westerners are habitually exposed. Primary information is essential to distinguish between opinions and facts in a reasonable manner. This exercise may also enable the thinking individual to understand the inherently defective nature of prejudice itself, and that's to be more receptive to all information and knowledge of possible use to humankind.

The purpose of the class is to shed some light on the Prophet ﷺ of the most misunderstood faith and religious community in America. Although this is a class about the life of the prophet and the role he plays in the daily life of 1.7 billion Muslims, we will look at hadith narrative of the prophet ﷺ sayings and actions as a source of the foundation and tenets of the faith in addition to the Quran. We will also use "Sunnah/Hadith" to shed light on hot issues related to the faith such as Jihad and Sharia law.

Books and other reading material will be suggested to those who want to delve deeper in any of the class topic. We will look at the relationship weaved by the prophet ﷺ with Jews and Christians which determined the historical relations between the adherents of the three faiths. We will cover the prophet ﷺ views on issues related to governance, democracy, and women as well as any related topic raised by the students.

Mondays: 1:45PM-3:30PM

Topics:

Session 1: Mohammad: prophet of God;

Session 2: Mohammad: Exemplar of Muslim life;

Session 3: Mohammad and the Medinah State;

Session 4: Mohammad and the west;

Session 5: Mohammad' covenants with Christians and Jews;

Session 6: Mohammad and Mysticism;

Session 7: Mohammad a source of Islam's legal System;

Session 8: Mohammad and the quest for science and knowledge;

Session 9: Mohammad on hot topics such as Jihad women. Mohammad Marriages;

Session 10: Mohammad a prophet for our times.