

ESSAY PROMPT

Drawing on all relevant readings and lectures, unpack and explain through a detailed commentary the following statement, focusing on three of the qualities listed in it: “Whether Muhammad is praised as a divinely sent apostle, eschatological messiah, political revolutionary, statesman and community leader, military strategist and commander, arbiter of disputes, dispenser of justice, or quintessential mystic, in the end his character and deeds have yielded a highly variegated "Prophet-image" that functions as an expressive or experiential model of what is good and, hence, beautiful.” (*The Praiseworthy One*, 5). Your commentary should especially point out and integrate relevant moments and events from Muhammad’s biography and contribution of these events in shaping the image.

GUIDELINES:

- This is an open book review. The quality of the essay relies heavily on your ability and dedicated hard work to carefully identify, weave and present from our study all materials relevant to the answer. Be prepared to write, revise, rewrite, and rewrite.
- Audience: Your peers at Davidson who have no background in Islam.
- The commentary must “show, not tell”, i.e., demonstrate the point through concrete example(s).
- Writing must be clear and fluid in terms of structure and coherence.
- No more than four short quotations from readings can be included; everything else will be in your own words. If you are paraphrasing a quote from readings, cite the text and page number.
- You may use headings to differentiate sections or for highlighting themes.
- Avoid Plagiarism: Do not seek help from anyone.
- Sign the honor code.
- Length: No more than 1200 words.