

## **Dr. James Pavlin**

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52 Henry St., Elmwood Park, NJ 07407  
(201) 791-0922; jpavlin@hotmail.com

### **Education**

**May 1998:** Doctor of Philosophy, New York University, Graduate School of Arts and Science, Department of Middle Eastern Studies (formerly Near Eastern Languages and Literature)

- Major in Medieval Islamic theology and history
- Major language Arabic; minor language Persian
- Ph.D. qualifying exams in Arabic Literature and Islamic History
- Ph.D. dissertation: *The Concept of 'Ubudiyyah in the Theology of Ibn Taymiyyah: the Relationship of Faith, Love and Actions in the Perfection of Worship*
- Adviser: Prof. Alfred Ivry
- Abstract: The dissertation presents an original translation of *An Essay on Worship* by the Medieval theologian Ibn Taymiyyah. It examines the sources and methodology he uses in developing his concept of worship, which culminates in a unified theology for perfecting man's relation to God. He champions the simple piety of the salaf (Righteous Predecessors) in opposition to the logic based theology of the speculative theologians (mutakallimun), the metaphysics of the philosophers and the mysticism of the Sufis. By focusing on Ibn Taymiyyah's analysis of the mystical annihilation of self (fana'), I show how he combined prevalent intellectual trends with traditionalism to revive a "salafi" spiritualism.

**Oct. 1990:** Master of Arts, New York University, Graduate School of Arts and Science, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Literature

- Major in Medieval Islamic theology and history
- Major language: Arabic; European language requirement: German
- M.A. thesis: *Religion in its Social Context: Ibn Taymiyyah and the Theology of Love*

**Summer 1990:** Arabic Language Program, American University in Cairo

- Field of study: Colloquial Egyptian Arabic

**June 1987:** Bachelor of Arts (Summa Cum Laude), Ramapo College of New Jersey

- Major in World History
- Honors thesis: *Russians and Muslims in Central Asia: A History of Cultural Conflict*

**Sept. 1983-May 1984:** undergraduate studies, University of Maryland-European Division, Heidelberg, Germany

- Field of study: the Late Middle Ages to the Reformation

**Summer 1982:** Summer Program, Heidelberg University, Germany

- Field of study: Germany between the two World Wars

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### **Scholarships and Awards**

**Sept. 1987-May 1993:** University Scholarship, New York University

**Dec. 1991:** First Annual R. Bayly Winder Award, Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, New York University

**Summer 1990:** Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) grant to study at the American University in Cairo

### **College Teaching Experience**

**January 1999-Present:** Part Time Lecturer, Dept. of Religion, Rutgers-the State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901

**July 2002-June 2003:** Instructor (Annual Appointment), Dept. of Religion, Rutgers-the State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901

Academic responsibilities at Rutgers:

- Courses taught to date: Intro. to Religion: Social Patterns (100 level), Religions of the Western World (200 level), Religions of the Eastern World (200 level), Islamic Scriptures: Quran and Hadith (200 level), Islam (300 level), Prophet Muhammad (300 level)
- Independent Study through the Department of Middle Eastern Studies (400 level) for Fall 2006 and Spring 2007: directing a student in the reading and translation of the Medieval Arabic grammatical text al-Ajurrumiyyah.
- Research in Religion (300 level) in Spring 2004: directed student in researching the origin, development and significance of the Shiite rituals associated with the martyrdom of Imam Husayn
- Adviser for the Henry Rutgers Scholars Program (Fall 2002-Spring 2003): directed student in researching the historical causes of the Sunni-Shiite sectarian division in Islam, and examining the subsequent theological influences on the respective interpretations of that history.
- Research in Religion (300 level) in Fall 2001: directed student in research to analyze the role of women as presented in the Quran.
- Adviser for Cook College Honors Program Tutorial (Spring 2001): directed student in research concerning the roots of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with special emphasis on the religious claims to the Holy Land.

**Sept. 1998-Present:** Adjunct Faculty, History Dept., William Paterson University, Wayne, New Jersey 07470

- Courses taught: HIST 101, Foundations of Western Civilization to 1648; HIST 102, The West and the World since 1648; HIST 390, Islamic/Middle Eastern History I to 1258.

**January 2004-August 2004:** Adjunct Faculty, Dept. of Philosophy and Religion, Bergen Community College, Paramus, NJ

- Courses taught: PHR 120 Introduction to Religion, PHR 121 Religions of the World

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**College Teaching Experience (continued)**

**Fall 1995:** Adjunct Faculty, St. John's University, Queens Campus, Jamaica, New York 11439

- Course taught: Introduction to Islamic Religion

**June 1993-May 1994:** Adjunct Faculty, William Paterson College, Wayne, New Jersey 07470

- Courses taught: Basic German I and II

**Publications and Scholarly Papers**

**Book Translations (forthcoming):** Completed the translation of Vol. 20 and currently preparing a translation of Vol. 19 of Tabatabai's Quran commentary titled *al-Mizan fi Tafsir al-Quran* for the Al-Mizan Project funded by the Alavi Foundation, 500 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10110.

**Book translation** (without peer review): *Marriage and Divorce: Keep Them in Kindness or Release Them in Kindness*. Muhammad Jamil Ghazi. Trans. by James Pavlin. South Orange, New Jersey: CWP Publishing, 1998.

**Manuscript Preview** (Summer 2003): Critiqued three chapters of Newell S. Booth's *Islam in History* for Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458.

**Book Review:** *MESA Bulletin*, "The Islamic Understanding of Death and Resurrection." By Jane Idleman Smith and Yvonne Haddad. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.

**Book Review:** *Islamic Studies*, vol. 41, no. 1 (Spring 2002), "Al-Ghazali: The Remembrance of Death and the Afterlife, Kitab Dhikr al-Mawt wa Ma Ba'dahu, BOOK XL of Ihya' 'Ulum al-Din [Revival of the Religious Sciences]." Translated with an introduction and notes by T.J. Winter. Cambridge, UK: Islamic Texts Society, 1999.

**Article** (forthcoming): "Symbolic Meaning of Hajj in Islamic Scriptural Sources," in a volume to be published from the conference entitled Common Ground: Pilgrimage and Jerusalem in Early Judaism, Christianity and Islam held at St. Peter's College, Jersey City, New Jersey, in March, 2006.

**Article:** *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World*, S.V. "Ibn Taymiyya," New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2003.

**Article:** *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, S.V. "Ibn Taymiyya," New York: Routledge, 1998.

**Article:** "Sunni Kalam and Theological Controversies" in *Routledge History of Islamic Philosophy*, ed. by S.H. Nasr and O. Leaman. New York: Routledge, 1996.

**Presentation:** March 30, 2006, "Symbolic Meaning of Hajj in Islamic Scriptural Sources." Paper presented at a conference entitled Common Ground: Pilgrimage and Jerusalem in Early Judaism, Christianity and Islam held at St. Peter's College, Jersey City, New Jersey.

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### **Publications and Scholarly Papers (continued)**

**Presentation:** November, 2003, “Ibn Taymiyyah’s Critique of Ghazali’s *Mishkat al-Anwar*.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA.

**Presentation:** March 29-30, 2003, “Conflict Resolution: Sunni Theological Perspectives.” Paper presented at the Foundation for Interreligious Dialogue, Second Annual Conference on Conflict Resolution: Religion, Diplomacy and Peace: A Dialogue Among Diplomats, University Presidents, Clergy, and Scholars. Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City.

**Presentation:** November, 2000, “The Body-Mind-Soul Connection in Islam: the View of Ibn Taymiyyah.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Nashville, TN.

**Presentation:** November 1999, “The Salafi-ization of Fana’: Ibn Taymiyyah and the Annihilation of Self.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Washington, D.C.

### **Other Activities and Professional Training**

**November, 2004:** conducted a workshop on Islam and religious tolerance for the World Presidents Organization’s monthly meeting in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

**October, 2004:** Certification for completing the Rutgers University Human Subjects Compliance Program pertaining to research regarding human subjects.

**March, 2004:** Conducted a workshop on religious tolerance at the meeting of the Bergen Education Association in Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey.

**Fall 2001:** Participated in a series of panel “teach-ins” at Rutgers University related to the attacks of 9/11/01 on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

**Spring 2001:** Consultant to the Share Network for organ and tissue donation. Duties: To assist the Share Network in obtaining a federal grant to promote organ donation among the Muslim communities of New Jersey.

**Oct. 2000:** Panel participant at the Selicot Lecture, Temple Neve Shalom, Metuchen, NJ. Topic: The Sacrifice Story of Abraham’s Son in Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

### **Professional Affiliations**

American Academy of Religion (AAR)  
American Oriental Society (AOS)  
Middle East Medievalists (MEM)  
Middle East Studies Association (MESA)