

# ISLAMIC STUDIES

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## Overview

Islam is the world's second largest religion after Christianity. Western civilization has been intertwined with the Islamic since Islam's inception in the 7th century. Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world and one of the fastest growing in the United States. Despite these striking trends, Islam remains one of the least understood religious faiths and civilizations for American students.

Islamic studies is a multi- and interdisciplinary academic field that focuses on the study of Islam as a religious tradition with a diverse historical, philosophical and cultural heritage. This area of study seeks to introduce students to the multifaceted aspects of Islam through a wide variety of expressions, such as literature, religion, philosophy, social norms and practices, and politics, as well as various research methods. These research methods include literary criticism, hermeneutics, phenomenology, historical analysis, political theory, theology, sociology, and anthropology.