

ISLAMIC STUDIES MINOR

Overview

The Islamic studies minor furthers Fordham's mission by challenging students to view the world through non-Western European constructs of nature, epistemology, aesthetics, ethics, cosmic realities, and corporeal experience. The minor helps students develop a crucial intervention with which to disrupt and go beyond the longstanding parochialism of academic disciplines in the U.S. that focus primarily on the Western canon and its related epistemologies. Simply put, a minor in Islamic studies promotes other ways of knowing and being in the world.

Students gain much from exposure to a wide array of ideas drawn from various Islamic discourses, which attunes them to greater epistemic pluralism and broader horizons for understanding the complexities and challenges of our world. Islamic studies is especially germane to this wider task because it helps bring to light a wealth of knowledge and experience from Islamic societies left too long in the periphery of western scholarship.

Learning Goals

With the completion of the minor in Islamic Studies:

- Students will develop a solid understanding of the diverse historical, philosophical and cultural heritages of Islam, including its origins, development, and influence on world civilizations and contemporary events.
- Students will become familiar with the core beliefs, schools of thought, and practices of Islam, including its theologies, ethics, rituals, laws, artistic expressions, and social norms, and be able to analyze and interpret them in light of contemporary issues and debates.
- Students will be able to consider Islam through a wide array of theoretical and methodological approaches, which may include literary criticism, hermeneutics, linguistics, phenomenology, history, political science, philosophy, comparative studies, theology, postcolonial theory, sociology, and anthropology.
- Students will broaden their horizons to understand the complexities and challenges of our world through explorations of nonwestern expressions, experiences, and epistemologies.
- Students will learn to counter intolerance by developing an appreciation for diversity, pluralism, and dialogue, and develop a sense of empathy for other ways of being, thinking, and engaging in the world.

Requirements

The Islamic studies minor requires six (6) courses, as follows:

Course	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
One course on Islamic sacred texts or Islam's foundational history		3 to 4
One course on Islamic theology/history/philosophy		3 to 4

One course on Islamic arts/culture/politics¹ 3 to 4

Electives

Choose three courses drawn from any of the three categories above (one Arabic course may be included)² 9 to 12

- ¹ See below for lists of courses fulfilling each requirement.

² Any course with the ISFH (sacred texts/foundational history), ISTP (theology/philosophy/history), or ISAC (arts/culture/politics) attributes may fulfill this requirement. Additionally, a maximum of one course with the ISAR (Arabic courses) attribute may fulfill this requirement.

It is strongly recommended, but not required, that two of the courses taken towards the minor be in History or Theology.

Sacred Texts/Foundational History courses

Courses in this group have the ISFH attribute.

Course	Title	Credits
HIST 1700	Understanding Historical Change: Mideast	3
HIST 1750	Understanding Historical Change: Islamic History and Culture	3
HIST 3217	Islamic History, 1000–1600	4
THEO 3715	Classic Islamic Texts	3
THEO 3716	Islam and Modernity	3

Theology/Philosophy/History courses

Courses in this group have the ISTP attribute.

Course	Title	Credits
HIST 3670	The Modern Middle East	4
HIST 3982	The Islamic World and the Crusades, 1099–Ca.1700	4
HIST 3983	Apocalypticism and Messianism in Islamic Thought and History	4
HIST 3985	Ottoman Empire/ 1300-1800	4
HIST 3986	Religion and Politics in Islamic History	4
LACU 3210	Islam and Italy	4
MEST 2600	Medieval Islam	4
PHIL 3752	The Philosophy of al-Fārābī	4
PHIL 3753	Philosophy of the Islamic World	4
POSC 4425	Seminar: Contemporary Politics and Cultures in the Islamic World	4
THEO 3884	Sufism: Islam's Mystical Tradition	3
THEO 4027	The Ethics of Life	4
THEO 4310	Muslim, Jewish, and Christian Feminist Theologies: Discourses of Difference	4
THEO 4371	Islam in Modern Egypt	4

Arts/Culture/Politics courses

Courses in this group have the ISAC attribute.

Course	Title	Credits
AFAM 3115	Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X	4
ANTH 2614	Urbanism and Change in the Middle East	4
ANTH 2888	Gender and Islam	4
ANTH 3006	Arab-Americans and the Diasporic Experience	4
ANTH 3013	Anthropology of Palestinian Communities	4
ARAB 2450	The Short Story of Arabic Literature	4
ARAB 3000	Topics in Arabic Cultures	4
ARAB 3010	Human Rights in Arabic Literature	4
ARAB 3040	Topics in Arabic Literature	4
ARHI 2230	Islamic Art	4
ENGL 4545	Bath Cultures and Bathing Rituals From Antiquity to Brooklyn	4
HIST 3818	The History of Islam in the U.S.	4
LACU 3475	Oppositional Thought in Islamic Literature	4
MEST 3620	Islam in America	4
POSC 3418	Islamic Political Thought	4
POSC 3424	Political Philosophy between Islam and the West	4
POSC 3427	Islam, Art, and Resistance	4
POSC 3480	Islamic Culture and Politics in Spain	4
POSC 4425	Seminar: Contemporary Politics and Cultures in the Islamic World	4
THEO 3883	Medicine and Healing in Islam	4
THEO 3885	Women, Gender, and Islam	3
THEO 4545	Bath Cultures and Bathing Rituals From Antiquity to Brooklyn	4

Arabic courses

Courses in this group have the ISAR attribute.

Course	Title	Credits
ARAB 1501	Intermediate Arabic I	3
ARAB 1502	Intermediate Arabic II	3
ARAB 2001	Arabic Language and Literature	3
ARAB 2400	Approaches to Arabic Culture	4

Availability

The minor in Islamic studies is available at Fordham College at Rose Hill and at Fordham College at Lincoln Center. Students in Fordham's School of Professional and Continuing Studies may minor in Islamic studies only if they receive the approval of their advising dean and/or department, and their schedules are sufficiently flexible to permit them to take day courses at the Rose Hill or Lincoln Center campuses.