

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.