Islamic Civilization and Societies (ICS) is an interdisciplinary program that introduces students to a diversity of cultures, languages, and political systems in several critically important areas of the world. It represents a collaborative endeavor by five departments in the College of Arts and Sciences, including History, Political Science, Theology, Fine Arts, and Slavic and Eastern Languages & Literatures.

The major offers students an intellectually rich, rigorous, and coherent introduction to the study of the Islamic world including the Middle East, North Africa, and parts of South, Central, and East Asia, as well as Muslim minorities in the United States and Europe.

The major and its associated minor provide a well-integrated and rigorous program of study in languages, history, cultures, and politics of the many diverse societies where Islam is the majority religion or in which there are significant Muslim minorities.
Academic Advisory Board

David Quigley, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Chair
Kathleen Bailey, Political Science
Ali Banuazizi, Political Science
Nasser Behnegar, Political Science
Sheila Blair, Fine Arts
Jonathan Bloom, Fine Arts
Benjamin Braude, History
Michael Connolly, Slavic and Eastern Languages & Literatures
Peter Krause, Political Science
Jonathan Laurence, Political Science
James Morris, Theology
Intisar Rabb, Boston College Law School
Dana Sajdi, History
Franck Salameh, Slavic and Eastern Languages & Literatures
Peter Skerry, Political Science

Program Directors and Staff

Ali Banuazizi, Director
Political Science Department
McGuinn Hall, Room 324
ali.banuazizi@bc.edu
617/552-4124

Kathleen Bailey, Associate Director
Political Science Department
McGuinn Hall, Room 529
kathleen.bailey@bc.edu
617/552-4170

Susan Leonard, Program Coordinator
Gasson Hall, Room 104
susan.leonard@bc.edu
617/552-9139
Affiliated Faculty

Ali Banuazizi, Political Science
Kathleen Bailey, Political Science
Nasser Behnegar, Political Science
Pamela Berger, Fine Arts
Sheila Blair, Fine Arts
Jonathan Bloom, Fine Arts
Benjamin Braude, History
Gil Chalamish, Slavic and Eastern Languages & Literatures
Paul Christensen, Political Science
M. J. Connolly, Slavic and Eastern Languages & Literatures
Mariela Dakova, Slavic and Eastern Languages & Literatures
Natana DeLong-Bas, Theology
David DiPasquale, Political Science
Atef Ghobrial, Slavic and Eastern Languages & Literatures
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Peter Krause, Political Science
Jonathan Laurence, Political Science
James Morris, Theology
David Northrup, History
Prasannan Parthasarathi, History
Dana Sajdi, History
Franck Salaméh, Slavic and Eastern Languages & Literatures
Wallada Sarraf, Slavic and Eastern Languages & Literatures
Kalpana Seshadri, English
Cynthia Simmons, Slavic and Eastern Languages & Literatures
Peter Skerry, Political Science
Eve Spangler, Sociology
Sassan Tabataba’i, Slavic and Eastern Languages & Literatures
Admission to the Major

Students are accepted into the Islamic Civilization and Societies major by competitive application during the fall semester of the student’s second year (application deadline: October 15). Fifteen students are accepted into the major each year. Admission is determined by the program’s Admissions Committee. Criteria for admission include academic achievement (overall GPA, rigor of the academic program, and other noteworthy aspects of academic performance), strength of the faculty letters of recommendation, demonstrated personal and intellectual commitment to the field, quality of the student’s personal statement, and foreign language preparation. Applications are available online: http://www.bc.edu/ics

Requirements for the Islamic Civilization and Societies Major

The major in Islamic Civilization and Societies consists of **42 to 50 credit hours**, including two years of required language instruction. Students will be expected to attain proficiency (completion of intermediate level) in a relevant language such as Arabic, Hebrew, Turkish, Persian, or Urdu. In some cases, French, Russian, Chinese, or other languages relevant to specific research concerns may be accepted for students specializing in the study of Muslims in Africa, Central Asia, China, Europe, or the Americas, subject to approval by the ICS Program’s directors.

All ICS majors must choose a primary department in which to work, and must take the required departmental foundation courses. Two additional courses must be taken in the student’s primary department from an approved list. The five participating departments in the ICS Program are: Fine Arts, History, Political

My ICS minor provided a strong foundation for my current professional portfolio. The substantive coursework, combined with intensive language immersion, helped me develop the skill set necessary for nuanced, strategic advocacy and policy work in this region. ICS faculty were, of course, instrumental, and I do hope that current BC students have the opportunity to develop similar relationships with the dedicated professors within the major.

–Mariam Mansury ’04
Requirements for the Islamic Civilization and Societies Major (continued)

Science, Slavic and Eastern Languages & Literature, and Theology. In addition, students will choose three elective courses from an approved list. Electives must be distributed between at least two other departments in addition to the student’s disciplinary base. All majors are required to enroll in a research seminar in the fall of their senior year. In the spring term of their senior year, students will complete a senior thesis under the supervision of one of the faculty members affiliated with the ICS Program. The required multidisciplinary foundation course, IC 199 Islamic Civilization, is offered in the fall semester.

Consortium Courses

The ICS Program is also part of a consortium with Boston University, Brandeis University, and Tufts University.

Please consult with Kathleen Bailey, Associate Director, to determine courses that can be taken for credit, and visit the ICS website at http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/ics/consortium.html for a current list of consortium courses.

Al-Noor, Boston College’s undergraduate Middle Eastern and Islamic studies journal, aims to promote a discourse about the diverse opinions, myriad cultures, histories, and perspectives that comprise the Middle East. Visit Al-Noor’s website at http://alnoorjournal.org/
Admission to the Minor

Students seeking to earn a minor in Islamic Civilization and Societies must submit a proposed plan of study to the Associate Director of the Program, listing the courses that will be taken to fulfill the requirements. In general, proposed plans of study for the minor should be submitted no later than the second semester of the sophomore year. The Associate Director will review the proposed plan of study, in consultation with the student and Academic Advisory Board. If the proposed plan is accepted, the Advisory Board will grant approval for the student to become an ICS Program minor.

Applicants can select and print out the Islamic Civilization and Societies Plan-of-Study Form from the ICS website, complete the form, and then schedule an appointment with the Associate Director for advisement and formal application to the minor.

Requirements for the Minor

Students may earn a minor in Islamic Civilization and Societies by completing 18 to 22 credit hours selected from among courses approved and listed for the program. The courses selected must come from at least three different academic departments. IC 199 Islamic Civilization is required as a foundation course. Two courses at the Intermediate level or above in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, or a Turkic language may be counted toward the minor. One of the six courses must be a Seminar, Honors Thesis or Independent Study directed by a faculty member from the ICS Program.

Boston College’s ICS Program gave me a solid introduction to the Arabic language, and the analytical frameworks required to approach complex concepts and questions. I am greatly indebted to the program’s professors, who have become lifelong mentors and provided me with the nurturing learning environment I needed.

–Wajiha Ahmed ’05
Courses

For up-to-date availability of courses, visit http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/ics/bccourses.html

Islamic Civilization & Societies
- IC 199 Islamic Civilization
- IC 250 Conversation, Islam & Politics in the Balkans
- IC 400 Islam and Liberal Democracy
- IC 475 Politics and Oil in the Gulf
- IC 500 ICS Senior Seminar

Fine Arts
- FA 213 Introduction to Islamic Art and Architecture
- FA 214 The Art of the Silk Road
- FA 280 Masterpieces of Islamic Art
- FA 314 The Art and Archeology of Egypt and the Ancient Near East
- FA 350 Islamic Art: the Art of the Object
- FA 409 Art of the Islamic Book
- FM 314 Cinema of the Greater Middle East

History
- HS 059/60 Islam and Global Modernities I/II
- HS 208 Middle East in the Twentieth Century
- HS 326 History of Modern Iran
- HS 343 Rise and Fall of the Ottoman Empire
- HS 344 History and Historiography of the Arab-Israeli Conflict
- HS 366 South Asia and the World 1650-2000
- HS 575 Terror and the American Century
- HS 667 Jews and Islamic Civilization

Political Science
- PO 363 Muslims in U.S. Society and Politics
- PO 403 Rise and Rule of Islamic States
- PO 414 Politics & Society in Central Eurasia
- PO 444 Intellectuals and Politics in the Middle East
**Courses (continued)**

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<tr>
<td>PO 502</td>
<td>U.S.-Iran Relations since World War II</td>
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<tr>
<td>PO 532</td>
<td>International Relations of the Middle East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO 550</td>
<td>Terrorism &amp; Political Violence</td>
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<td>PO 638</td>
<td>Islamic Political Philosophy</td>
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<td>PO 806</td>
<td>Political Cultures of the Middle East</td>
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<td>PO 813</td>
<td>Islam in Europe</td>
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**Slavic and Eastern Languages & Literatures**

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<tr>
<td>SL 017/18</td>
<td>Elementary Arabic I &amp; II</td>
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<tr>
<td>SL 037/32</td>
<td>Modern Hebrew I &amp; II</td>
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<tr>
<td>SL 089/90</td>
<td>Intermediate Arabic I &amp; II</td>
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<td>SL 091</td>
<td>Biblical Hebrew</td>
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<td>SL 093</td>
<td>Intermediate Arabic Practicum</td>
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<td>SL 103</td>
<td>Turkish Language Workshop</td>
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<td>SL 110</td>
<td>Spoken Arabic Language Workshop</td>
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<td>SL 116</td>
<td>Lebanese Language Workshop</td>
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<td>SL 139</td>
<td>Persian Poetry Workshop</td>
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<td>SL 147</td>
<td>Language, Memory and Identity in the Middle East</td>
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<td>SL 171/72</td>
<td>Third-year Arabic I &amp; II</td>
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<td>SL 181/82</td>
<td>Persian for Scholars I &amp; II</td>
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<td>SL 232</td>
<td>Literature of the Other Europe in Translation</td>
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<td>SL 251/52</td>
<td>Advanced Arabic I &amp; II</td>
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<td>SL 280</td>
<td>Society and National Identity in the Balkans</td>
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<td>SL 381</td>
<td>Newspaper and Media Arabic</td>
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<td>SL 382</td>
<td>Business Arabic</td>
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<td>SL 398</td>
<td>Adv Tutorial Arabic</td>
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**Sociology**

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<tr>
<td>SC 150</td>
<td>States and Minorities in the Middle East</td>
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<td>SC 367</td>
<td>Social Justice/Israel &amp; Palestine</td>
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**Theology**

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<tr>
<td>TH 116</td>
<td>Medieval Religions and Thought</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 161/62</td>
<td>Religious Quest: Comparative Perspectives</td>
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<td>TH 351</td>
<td>Faith Elements in Conflicts</td>
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<td>TH 352</td>
<td>Israelis and Palestinians</td>
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<td>TH 445</td>
<td>Mystical Poetry in the Islamic Humanities</td>
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<td>TH 466</td>
<td>Introduction to Judaism</td>
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<td>TH 509</td>
<td>Pathways to God</td>
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<td>TH 544</td>
<td>Prophetic Tradition: Exploring the Hadith</td>
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<td>TH 554</td>
<td>Encountering the Qur’an</td>
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<td>TH 572</td>
<td>Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I</td>
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<td>TH 585</td>
<td>Introduction to the Dead Sea Scrolls</td>
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Study Abroad Opportunities

All students in the ICS Program are strongly encouraged to study abroad for a summer, a semester, or a full academic year (preferably during the Junior year). Boston College offers over 60 programs around the world for those students wishing to pursue Islamic studies and Arabic language abroad.

To accommodate those students who would like to study in a country or a city in which Boston College currently does not offer a program, the Office of International Programs recommends a selection of approved external programs.

In addition, each summer, a number of Boston College courses are offered abroad that provide students with a culturally enriching and academically significant experience. Boston College summer programs in Kuwait, Israel, and Turkey are open to all Boston College students regardless of class year or GPA.

The ICS Program offers competitive scholarships to students for language acquisition and research abroad. These awards include ICS Travel & Research Grants, Advanced Study Grants, McGillicuddy-Logue Travel Grants, ACCIAC Global Scholarship Awards, as well as others. For a full list of scholarship opportunities and applications, visit the OIP website at http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/. Students can also visit the Office of International Programs at Hovey House, 258 Hammond Street, for further information and to begin the application process.
Some Recent Graduates of The Program: Where Are They Now?

George Somi ’10 – Master’s student in Middle Eastern studies at the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences; 2011-2012 president of the Harvard Middle Eastern Cultural Association (HMECA); founder and 2011-2012 president of the Harvard GSAS Middle Eastern and North Africa Club

Tara Foley ’05 – Foreign Service Officer; currently in full-time Arabic training in preparation for a tour in Baghdad starting spring ’12, followed by posting to US embassy in Cairo to work on the human rights portfolio

Brian Jacek ’10 – Law student at Seton Hall; has worked for the International Rescue Committee in New York on immigration law and a civics curriculum for refugees; research assistant to Dr. Bernard Freamon, researching Islamic jurisprudence, modern-day human trafficking, and the legal implications of the Middle East revolutions

Sandra Williams ’10 – Master’s student in Art History at the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University; her thesis is focusing on Near Eastern photography in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, specifically Iran

Luke Tarbi ’08 – Worked in Afghanistan as part of the Afghan police training and development initiative while a Navy officer; currently working in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia as a Strategy Consultant with Deloitte & Touche Middle East; consulting Arab governments on issues of trade policy, economic development, and institutional restructuring; graduated with a Master of Arts in International Relations from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, specializing in International Political Economy

Alex Guittard ’11 – After graduation, received commission in the US Army Reserves Military Intelligence; currently stationed in Ft. Huachuca, Arizona; will begin working as Senior Consultant for Booz, Allen, Hamilton, a leading provider of management and technology consulting services to the US government in defense, intelligence, and civil markets in spring ’12

Christopher Maroshegyi ’09 – After a Fulbright Fellowship and UNESCO consultant in Iraq, currently working as Vice President of Public Policy, EL Rothschild

Alison Fahey ’07 – Spent one year in Amman on a Fulbright Fellowship conducting research and studying Arabic; currently in Amman, Jordan, working on the USAID/Jordan Fiscal Reform II Project as the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Specialist
Kelly Dalla Tezza ’11 – Currently a Fulbright Fellow in Bahrain, researching the role of women in politics

Emily Neumeier ’08 – Lived in Istanbul as a Fulbright scholar, studying Islamic calligraphy; in fall 2009, entered the combined master’s and PhD program in the History of Art at the University of Pennsylvania; attended the bi-annual Hamid ibn Khalifa Symposium on Islamic Art in Doha as a Hamid ibn Khalifa Travel Fellow Dissertation; will be looking at Ottoman architecture in the empire’s provinces

Margaret Sullivan ’08 – Currently pursuing joint master’s degree program (MPA/MA) in public administration and Central Asian studies at Indiana University, including a year of research and language study as a Boren Fellow in Tajikistan; concentrating on formal and informal local leadership and the role of local leaders in social services intervention. Also working with the Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia on a project promoting access to justice among vulnerable rural groups. Maggie received a Title VIII fellowship to study Tajiki and Farsi in Dushanbe, Tajikistan; a Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship to study Uzbek; and a Doris Hastings IDEA award for overseas research from Arizona State University

Clay Westrope ’05 – Currently working with French humanitarian and development organization ACTED in Tajikistan as the Country Appraisal, Monitoring, and Evaluation Officer. Based in Dushanbe, but works on projects in Sughd, Khatlon, and GBA provinces. Previously, worked with the US development organization, Mercy Corps, in Tajikistan as the Food Security and Livelihoods Impact Advisor based in the southern town of Shaartuz, and in the US Senate, and Amnesty International

Dorothy Smith ’09 – Following a Fulbright Fellowship in Jordan and Oman to research water issues, worked for the Center for International Private Enterprise on projects to support democratic reform in the Middle East; currently in the doctoral program at George Washington University concentrating in Middle East Studies

Wajiha Ahmed ’06 – Currently covers the South Asia Portfolio for a results-based financing trust fund (GPOBA) at the World Bank. Has served as a microfinance consultant for various international and national development NGOs, including the Aga Khan Foundation (Geneva) and the Kashf Foundation and Microfinance Institute (Pakistan). She holds a Master of Arts in Development from the Fletcher School of Diplomacy, Tufts University

Alison Grieco ’10 – Peace Corps Youth Development Volunteer in Jordan
Islamic Civilization & Societies Program
Distinguished Lecture Series

Each year, the Islamic Civilization & Societies Program sponsors lectures by distinguished experts, thanks in part to the generosity of Dr. Richard E. Frates, ’51, on the various topics confronting today’s study of the Middle East. A few of our distinguished lecturers have been...


Dr. Andrea B. Rugh, Social Anthropologist and Author, “Is Tribalism Still Relevant in the United Arab Emirates?” October 4, 2011

Barbara Slavin, Journalist and Author, “A ‘Strategically Lonely’ Iran Makes the Most of Regional Opportunities” March 16, 2011

Dr. Haleh Esfandiari, Director, Middle East Program, Woodrow Wilson Int’l Center for Scholars, “My Prison, My Home: One Woman’s Story of Captivity in Iran” September 30, 2009

Arnd Wachter, Director of the award-winning film, *Crossing Borders*, including a showing of the film April 7, 2011


Dr. Thomas J. Barfield, Prof. of Anthropology at Boston Univ., “Afghanistan on the Brink: Elections and Legitimacy” September 23, 2009

Dr. Nizar Hamzeh, Dean, Arts & Sciences, American Univ., Kuwait, “Understanding Islamic Charities: The Case for Hizbullah” April 7, 2009

I took the photograph at a camel herding farm on Failaka Island (an island off the coast off Kuwait) in June 2011. It is of a camel herder embracing jubilantly one of the dozens of camels he cared for on this farm.

I think this photograph displays how closely BC’s students interacted with real Kuwaiti life and culture and serves as a testament to how authentic our time abroad was.
www.bc.edu/ics