

BOSTON COLLEGE

**Islamic Civilization
and
Societies Program**



**Major and Minor
The College of Arts and Sciences**

2012-2013





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.



Speaker of the Kuwait National Assembly, Jassem Al-Kharafi, greets BC student

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*

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James Morris, *Theology*

Intisar Rabb, *Boston College Law School*

Dana Sajdi, *History*

Franck Salameh, *Slavic and Eastern Languages & Literatures*

Peter Skerry, *Political Science*

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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*

Raymond Helmick, S.J., *Theology*

Peter Krause, *Political Science*

Jonathan Laurence, *Political Science*

James Morris, *Theology*

David Northrup, *History*

Prasannan Parthasarathi, *History*

Dana Sajdi, *History*

Franck Salameh, *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.

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

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

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 Civil-**

ization 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



Students at a fish market in Kuwait, 2011

Courses *(continued)*

PO 502	U.S.-Iran Relations since World War II
PO 532	International Relations of the Middle East
PO 550	Terrorism & Political Violence
PO 638	Islamic Political Philosophy
PO 806	Political Cultures of the Middle East
PO 813	Islam in Europe

Slavic and Eastern Languages & Literatures

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

Sociology

SC 150	States and Minorities in the Middle East
SC 367	Social Justice/Israel & Palestine

Theology

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

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...



Ethan Bronner,
New York Times,
Jerusalem bureau chief,
"The Israeli-Palestinian
Conflict, the Arab Spring
and American Policy: A
Report from the Field"
October 27, 2011



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



Amb. Edward P. Djerejian,
Ambassador to
Syria (1989-1991) and
Israel (1993-1994),
"The Israeli-Syrian
Relations in Broader
Middle East Context"
September 29, 2011



Fr. Paolo Dall'Oglio, S.J.,
Founder of Deir Mar
Musa al-Habashi
Monastery in Syria
February 22, 2011



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



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



Barbara Slavin,
Journalist and Author,
"A 'Strategically Lonely'
Iran Makes the Most of
Regional Opportunities"
March 16, 2011



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



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



Amb. Francis J. Ricciardone, Jr.,
Ambassador to Arab
Republic of Egypt, "The
Practice of American
Diplomacy in the Middle
East: The Case of Egypt"
January 26, 2009



**Photo by Diane Bernabei, Class of 2014
Winner of First Place**

**International Cultures in the 2011 BC Summer Abroad Photo Contest
Sponsored by Boston College, Office of Sponsored Programs**

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.



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