

Minor in Arabic and Islamic Studies
Proposed by World Languages and Cultures (WLAC) and Religious Studies

- I. School of Liberal Arts *Department: Multiple*
- II. *Proposed Minor: Arabic and Islamic Studies*
- III. *Related Minor:*
- IV. *Projected Date of Implementation: Spring 2008*
- V. **The Minor:**

The minor in Arabic and Islamic Studies takes a global and comparative approach to the study of Islamic history and Muslim societies, emphasizing the diversity of Muslim peoples and cultures in the past and present. The minor has also an interdisciplinary approach to establish new critical paradigms. Students complete basic requirements in Arabic language and Islamic studies, and choose from a list of electives to complete the 15 credits required for the minor. Students also have the opportunity to apply for the IUPUI Summer Abroad in Jordan, and are encouraged to consider a major in International Studies, which offers a concentration on the Middle East.

Students choose from two areas of concentration: (1) Arabic Language and (2) Islamic civilization.

(1) Arabic Language Concentration – 15 credits

After completing or testing out of the introductory courses on Arabic language, students must achieve a functional knowledge of Arabic, accumulating 12 credits by taking:

NELC A200 Intermediate Arabic I
NELC A250 Intermediate Arabic II
NELC A300 Advanced Arabic I
NELC A350 Advanced Arabic II

In addition, students must complete one three-credit course in Islamic studies from the list of religious studies courses below in category B.

(2) Islamic Civilization Concentration -- 15 credits

A. Arabic language, 6 credits required, chosen from

NELC A200 Intermediate Arabic I
NELC A250 Intermediate Arabic II
NELC A300 Advanced Arabic I
NELC A350 Advanced Arabic II

B. Islamic studies, 3 credits required, chosen from:

R257 Intro to Islam
R304 Islamic Beginnings
R305 Islam and Modernity

R309 Contemporary Middle East (offered as part of Jordan Study Abroad)
R370 Islam in America

C. Electives, 6 credits required, chosen from:

F400, Islam, Gender, and Conflicts

H425 Topics: Middle East History

W300 Women and Islam

Y339 Middle Eastern Politics

Y380 Politics of Islam

A300 Cultures of the Middle East

R257 Intro to Islam

R304 Islamic Beginnings

R305 Islam and Modernity

R370 Islam in America

N302/R309, Contemporary Middle East (offered as part of Jordan Study Abroad)

Please note: you cannot double count any courses toward the fifteen required credits.

VI. Rational:

It is hard to imagine a more timely or important subject for students than Arabic and Islamic studies. In executing its mission to create and exchange knowledge that promotes understanding of the human experience, the IU School of Liberal Arts has pledged itself to an interdisciplinary and international approach to the liberal arts. Establishing an interdisciplinary minor that focuses on Arabic and Islamic studies is an urgent need if we are to prepare our students for the twenty-first century.

The Modern Languages Association report on enrollments in languages other than English cites a 126.5% increase in Arabic enrollments between 2002 and 2006, against an overall 12.9% increase for all other languages other than English taught in the United States (see further http://www.mla.org/pdf/enrollmentsurvey_final.pdf). And yet, agencies of the U.S. government, businesses, and non-profits still complain about a lack of Arabic language speakers in the country. Arabic, for first language speakers, ranks as the fourth language spoken in the world after Chinese, Spanish and English. (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/xx.html>)

In a world where more than 20% of the population is Muslim and Islam is the fastest growing religion, this minor becomes a necessity as well as an essential preparation for anyone whose career will have some impact on Muslim people or the Islamic world—nurses and doctors who treat Muslims at home or abroad, military personnel stationed in Muslim nations, foreign service officers, international business people, educators who hope to teach about Islam and Muslims, politicians, civil rights lawyers, community activists, and more. In an increasingly globalized world, this minor will prepare students for graduate studies and careers in international relations, business, law and academic disciplines.

VII. Student population to be served and market to be targeted:

This minor will serve the needs of diverse constituencies:

- Students learning Arabic (3 years)
- Liberal Arts students interested in Arabic and Islamic cultures who intend to pursue graduate studies or careers in the Muslim World, the Middle East or national organizations related to these regions (Foreign Service such as the Peace Corps, diplomatic work, etc.)
- Medical and para-medical students seeking careers in the Muslim World, The Middle East, or serving local Muslim communities.
- Legal and para-legal students who will come in contact with diverse Arab and Muslim communities locally or abroad.
- Students seeking a career in national security organizations and systems (FBI, CIA, local police).
- Students enrolled or who will enroll in the military.
- Students seeking to work as interpreters in the UN or any other international organization.

VIII. How does this minor complement the departmental and campus missions?

The “Strategic Plan for a New Era of Internationalization” issued in 2007 by the IUPUI Office of International Affairs States “We envision IUPUI as a leader in developing new modes of internationalization that make our city, state and the two university systems to which we belong not only a “Crossroads of America”, but also a “crossroads of the world”.

The Minor in Arabic and Islamic Studies is a well needed addition to complement the international development mission of IUPUI. It will respond to the students increasing demand for a better understanding of the overwhelming political, economic and cultural changes in the world, particularly during the last decade.

IX. Resource required to implementing the proposed program:

This minor was conceived with the goal of making the most of existing resources and reconfiguring them in a cohesive set of courses. All the required courses are already offered through the WLAC department and other departments in the Liberal Arts School (Anthropology, Religion, Women’s Studies and History).

The WLAC department along with the Religions Department will assign the directors who will manage the Minor in Arabic and Islamic Studies. It will need to be well advertised but will require a minimal amount of administrative procedures.

A full-time faculty for Arabic Language will be needed to manage, and develop the Arabic program. Some courses (such as Arabic conversation, Arabic calligraphy, and independent studies) might be needed in the future to complement the program. Also,

establishing support elements, such as students tutoring, Arab-American partners, will enhance students' language acquisition and development.

X. Innovative features of the program:

The Minor in Arabic and Islamic Studies is a flexible program that will allow the students to shape it according to their projected needs and interest, giving more emphasis to Arabic when the students have a stronger aspiration in the language acquisition, or concentrating on the cultural and historical courses when students' interest is focused on Islamic Studies.

The IUPUI Summer Study Abroad in Jordan is an extremely valuable program offered to the students; in 2008, 22 students applied for 15 available spots. Other Study abroad programs are also developing through different contacts in Egypt (AUC, Arabic Academy), Lebanon, Morocco, Yemen (Critical Language Scholarships for Intensive Summer Institutes).

Also, some efforts can be put toward cooperating with as well as getting support (training and financial) from the NCLRC (National Capital Language Resource Center) in Washington DC. NCLRC is a joint project of Georgetown University, The George Washington University, and the Center for Applied Linguistics. It is one of fifteen nonprofit [Language Resource Centers](#) funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

XI. Student outcome:

Students with a minor in Arabic Language and Islamic studies will be proficient in Standard Arabic at the Intermediate level in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) as defined by ACTFL. In addition, they will have a basic knowledge of some Arab countries' dialect. They will also understand the historical connections among Muslims in the Middle East and Muslims in sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia, Southeastern Europe, South Asia, Central Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Muslim Diaspora. In short, they will gain knowledge of similarities and differences among the worldwide community of Muslims.

Performances objectives are:

- Students engage in conversation, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions.
- Students understand and interpret written and spoken Arabic on a variety of topics.
- Students develop basic knowledge of major Islamic religious traditions, including Sunni, Shia, and Sufi Islam.

- Students understand that Islamic traditions cross social, national, and cultural boundaries.

XII Assessment:

Outcome	Where will students learn this?	How will student achievement of the outcome be assessed?	In what setting will the assessment take place?
Students engage in conversation, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions.	A200 Intermediate Arabic I A250 Intermediate Arabic II A300 Advanced Arabic I A350 Advanced Arabic II	Practice and improve use of vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation for communicative purposes.	Assignments and evaluation: Short compositions, translations, exams, short papers, audio log, grammatical and cultural readings in Arabic, class discussion, oral presentations, and grammar exercises
Students understand and interpret written and spoken Standard Arabic on a variety of topics.	A200 Intermediate Arabic I A250 Intermediate Arabic II A300 Advanced Arabic I A350 Advanced Arabic II	Increase ability to speak and comprehend spoken Arabic Increase vocabulary and improve grammar skills.	Assignments and evaluation: Oral presentation of analysis of literary pieces, written exams, written responses to questions about the readings. Assignments and quizzes focusing on acquisition of vocabulary, idioms and grammar in Arabic.
Students understand the similarities and differences among the worldwide community of Muslims.	F400, Islam, Gender, and Conflicts H425 Topics: Middle East History W300 Women and Islam Y339 Middle Eastern Politics Y380 Politics of Islam A300 Cultures of the Middle East R257 Intro to Islam R304 Islamic Beginnings	Through essays, tests, class presentations, multimedia projects, research, first hand experience projects, country projects, media analysis, guest speakers, and service learning.	Assignments and evaluation: Reading of Muslim texts, study of Muslim persons, cultures, history, societies, politics, and religions. The setting will be the classroom, teleconferences, and where applicable, visits to Muslim sites in America and Muslim-majority

	R305 Islam and Modernity R370 Islam in America N302/R309, Contemporary Middle East (offered as part of Jordan Study Abroad)		countries.
Students develop basic knowledge of major Islamic religious traditions, including Sunni, Shia, and Sufi Islam.	R257 Intro to Islam R304 Islamic Beginnings R305 Islam and Modernity R309 Contemporary Middle East (offered as part of Jordan Study Abroad) R370 Islam in America	Through essays, tests, guest speakers, class presentations, multimedia projects, research, and service learning.	Assignments and evaluation: Will include experiential education off campus in addition to multimedia environments on campus.