Global Islamic Studies

Overview
As a Global Islamic Studies major, you learn to analyze the cultural, political and religious influence Muslims have in the globalized world by examining their past and present. You study how Islam became a fast-growing world religion and how perceptions of Muslims and Islam impact policies and conceptions of citizenship in both Muslim-majority and non-Muslim-majority countries throughout the world. Our faculty have specialized experience in Western Europe, Russia, Turkey, Bosnia, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, North Africa and the Middle East. The multidisciplinary and global focus of this major allows you to explore themes of migration and transnationalism, identity, religious orthodoxy and authority, and helps you develop a comprehensive understanding of the many roles played by Islam and Muslims in the unfolding human story.

Language Study
Language and culture are inherently intertwined. As a Global Islamic Studies major, you are required to undertake at least two years of language study, including two semesters at an intermediate level or higher. You can choose from Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Russian, or Spanish, although another language may be selected with the approval of your faculty adviser. All majors are encouraged to become familiar with Arabic, even if it is not your primary language of study.

Study Abroad
You will be encouraged to seek a study abroad program tailored to your particular interests. You may study in Europe, Russia, Turkey, Southeast Asia, Africa or the Middle East. You will also work with a team of faculty and career advisers to find or develop a skill-building internship, in the U.S. or abroad, that relates to your studies and career goals.
Faculty

Joseph Alchermes, Associate Professor of Art History, Director of the Architectural Studies Program
B.A., Wesleyan University; M.A., Ph.D., Institute of Fine Arts at New York
Late Roman art, Early Christian art, Byzantine art, Medieval architecture

Sheetal Chhabria, Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Assistant Professor of History
South Asian history, inequality, urbanization, urban studies, global history, globalization

Sharon J. Portnoff, Associate Professor of Religious Studies
B.A., St. John's College; M.Ed., Harvard University; M.A., Ph.D., Jewish Theological Seminary
Modern Jewish thought, Holocaust theology, Dante, Primo Levi, Isreal

Eileen M. Kane, Assistant Professor of History
A.B., Brown University; M.A., Ph.D., Princeton University
Russian and post-Soviet history, modern Europe, empires

Denis Ferhatovic, William Meredith Assistant Professor of English
B.A., University of Virginia; M.A., Yale University
Medieval literature, word and image, postcolonial theory, translation

Seema Golestaneh, C3 Postdoctoral Fellow
B.A., Barnard College; M.Phil, M.A., Ph.D., Columbia University
Iran; alternative Islamic discourse; politics of cultural heritage; religion

Caroleen Sayej, Assistant Professor of Government and International Relations
B.A., Fordham University; M.A., Ph.D., New York University
Middle Eastern studies, contemporary Islamic social movements, comparative politics, international relations

Sufia Uddin, Associate Professor of Religious Studies
B.A., Colgate University; M.A., Clark University; Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania
Islamic studies, religion in South Asia, women and religion

Karolin Machtans, Associate Professor of German Studies
M.A., Ph.D., University of Hamburg
German literature and film, The Holocaust, gender studies, memory, translation, environmentalism and urban space

Seema Golestaneh, Associate Professor of History
C3 Postdoctoral Fellow
B.A., Barnard College; M.Phil, M.A., Ph.D., Columbia University
Iran; alternative Islamic discourse; politics of cultural heritage; religion

Frederick S. Paxton, Brigida Pacchiani Ardenghi Professor of History
B.A., Michigan State University; M.A., University of Washington; Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley
Medieval Europe, death and healing, The Middle Ages, big history

Afshan Jafar, Associate Professor of Sociology
B.A., Ohio Wesleyan University; Ph.D., University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Muslim immigrants in the U.S., gender, media, globalization, nationalist and fundamentalist movements

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College is a private, highly selective liberal arts college with 1,850 students and more than 40 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities, as well as the option for students to self-design majors. The College offers a high level of intellectual challenge, a campus culture that supports students to tailor their educational experience to their own interests and goals, and a four-year career development program that teaches students how to translate a liberal arts degree into a first job or graduate school admission. Connecticut College is situated in the small New England seaport of New London.