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

Dean Accardi, Visiting Assistant Professor of History
B.A., Loyola University of Chicago; M.A., Columbia University; Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin
South Asian history; Islam in global contexts; interreligious interaction; gender and the body; secularism and politics

Sheetal Chhabria, Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Assistant Professor of History
B.A., Loyola University of Chicago; M.A., Columbia University; Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin
South Asian history; inequality; urbanization; urban studies; global history; globalization

Eileen M. Kane, Associate Professor of History
A.B., Brown University; M.A., Ph.D., Princeton University
Russia-Middle East connections in the modern era; Muslims and Jews in modern Europe and Russia; migrations; spatial history

Rujita Mehta, Assistant Professor of English
B.A., St. Xavier's College, India; M.A., St. Stephen's College, India; M.A., Ph.D., Brown University
Visual and literary studies; archival methods; critical theory; postcolonial studies; media studies

Marie Ostby, Visiting Assistant Professor of English
B.A., Yale University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Virginia
World literature; postcolonial literature; Middle Eastern studies; women's literature

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
Global Islam; religious diversity in South Asia; women and religion; South Asian Muslim migrants

Karolin Machtans, Assistant Professor of German Studies
M.A., Ph.D., University of Hamburg
20th and 21st-century German literature and film; post-1945 German history and culture; German-Turkish relations; Muslims in Germany; minorities in Germany; Holocaust studies; literary theory

Associated Faculty:
Joseph Alchermes, Associate Professor of Art History; Director of the Architectural Studies Program
Waed Athamneh, Assistant Professor of Arabic Studies in the Department of Classics
Denis Ferhatovic, William Meredith Assistant Professor of English
Afshan Jafar, Associate Professor of Sociology
Frederick S. Paxton, Brigida Pacchiani Ardenghi Professor of History
Sharon J. Portnoff, Elie Wiesel Professor of Judaic Studies

About Connecticut College
Connecticut College educates students to put the liberal arts into action as citizens in a global society. A leader in the liberal arts since 1911, the College is home to nationally ranked programs for internships, community action, arts and technology, environmental studies and international studies. Our beautiful 750-acre arboretum campus is located in the historic New England seaport community of New London, Conn.