



2019 - 2020

American Islamic College  
College Catalog



# AMERICAN ISLAMIC COLLEGE COLLEGE CATALOG 2019-2020

This catalog serves as a general guide to assist AIC students in understanding and achieving their academic goals while becoming acquainted with the policies and procedures of American Islamic College. While each student is expected to familiarize himself/herself with the contents of this catalog it should be noted that this is an evolving text, which AIC may update or change at any time. Thus, it should be taken as a guide rather than a contract between AIC and the student.

Please consult the AIC website or your academic advisor for the most up-to-date information.

American Islamic College welcomes qualified students of all ages, races, colors, creeds, and national/ethnic origins to the programs and activities made available to students at the College. The College consciously promotes inclusion and so does not discriminate on the basis of disability, or any of the factors mentioned above, in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, and other school-administered programs.

American Islamic College



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AMERICAN ISLAMIC COLLEGE



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new and returning students for this upcoming academic year. There are some exciting and positive developments underway here at the College and I am hopeful that the year ahead will be a stimulating and productive one for each of you.

We enter the 2019-2020 Academic Year with a new organizational structure and a renewed momentum for change towards our long-term goals as a College. At both the undergraduate and graduate levels we strive to offer the very best of traditional Islamic learning with critical contemporary academic standards. Our approach to Islamic Studies is faith-centered but inclusive, open to a rich diversity of schools and points of view. You will find that the typically small size of our classes allow for personalized instruction and mentoring from our well-qualified faculty. Another source of enrichment are our offerings in Islamic art which this year is focused on paper marbling, or Ebru, taught by an accomplished master in the field. Outside of the classroom, I encourage you to participate in our community lecture series, where we invite professionals as well as scholars from different universities to present their work and interact with our students and the wider community.

AIC is blessed with wonderful facilities of which I hope our students will make the most. I am very pleased to announce our new library setting on the main floor complete with comfortable study spaces, new computers and a growing collection of books, electronic resources as well as interlibrary loan services. We have an affordable on-campus housing option and plentiful parking, as well as being conveniently accessible by public transportation. Students should also take advantage of being steps away from Lake Michigan to enjoy various sports, such as tennis on city courts and running, walking or biking along the extensive network of lakeshore trails with dramatic views of Chicago's skyline.

I wish you a successful academic year and look forward to getting to know each of you personally.

Sincerely,

President Daoud Casewit

# HISTORY OF AMERICAN ISLAMIC COLLEGE

American Islamic College was incorporated in September 1981 as a private, not-for-profit, four-year institution of higher education meant to offer especially strong programs in Islamic Studies and the Arabic Language. In November 1982, AIC received authority from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) to operate as a postsecondary institution. The search for suitable premises led to the purchase of its present property (see next page) in March 1983.

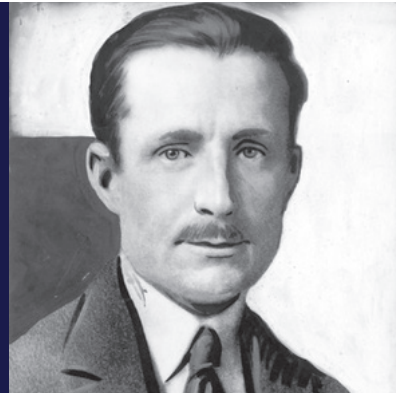
The College first opened its doors to students in September 1983 under founding President Isma`il Al-Faruqi (1921-1986) and founding Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Ahmed Sakr (1933-2015). In May 1984, IBHE bestowed degree-granting authority on AIC for the B.A. in Arabic Studies and the B.A. in Islamic Studies. In February 1985, AIC became the first accredited Islamic institution of higher education in North America when it was awarded “Initial Candidacy Status” from the regional Higher Learning Commission (HLC). In June 1988, AIC held its first commencement ceremony with six students receiving B.A. degrees.

Unfortunately, in March 1989, HLC withdrew AIC’s candidacy status for regional accreditation due to failure to address concerns about financial stability and governance. The following year IBHE revoked the College’s operating and degree-granting authority. Though AIC subsequently regained this status with IBHE and continued to function in minimalist fashion, it was unable to meet the HLC criteria for reapplication for candidacy status which, in turn, led IBHE to revoke our operating and degree-granting authority for a second time in 2004.

Beginning in 2009, American Islamic College embarked upon a new phase of significant reorganization and the installation of a reformed governance structure and a new administration. In 2010, the campus buildings and grounds underwent extensive renovation and remodeling. It was then that AIC reemerged as a revitalized resource of the Muslim community, hosting two consecutive international conferences on Islam in America, organizing public lectures and offering a variety of non-credit and non-degree classes in subjects such as Islamic History, Islamic Art, and Arabic. In the fall of 2013, after being granted IBHE operating authority once again, the College reopened its doors to undergraduate students and—for the first time—graduate students.

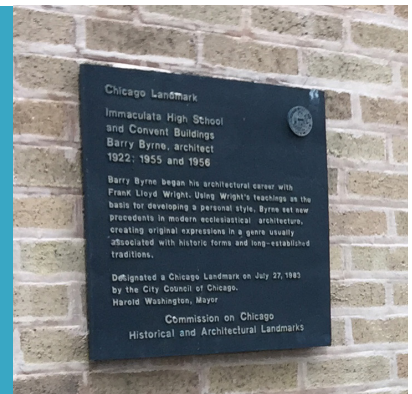
We have undergraduate and graduate students now filling the renovated classrooms and dormitory, and the College is more alive now than ever before. AIC’s history is thus still in the making, and we welcome you to be part of it.

Architect Francis Barry Byrne



The monumental main building (1922) and the subsequent additions (1955) were both designed by Barry Byrne (1883-1967), a Chicago native and one of Franklin Lloyd Wright's four best known students.

Already in 1977, the buildings were considered noteworthy enough to be put on the U.S. National Registry of Historic Places. In the summer of 1983, the complex of buildings was awarded Chicago Landmark status by the City's Commission on Historical and Architectural Landmarks.



In March 1983, the College purchased its present property, a former Catholic girls high school called Immaculata and attached convent.

HISTORY CONTINUES...

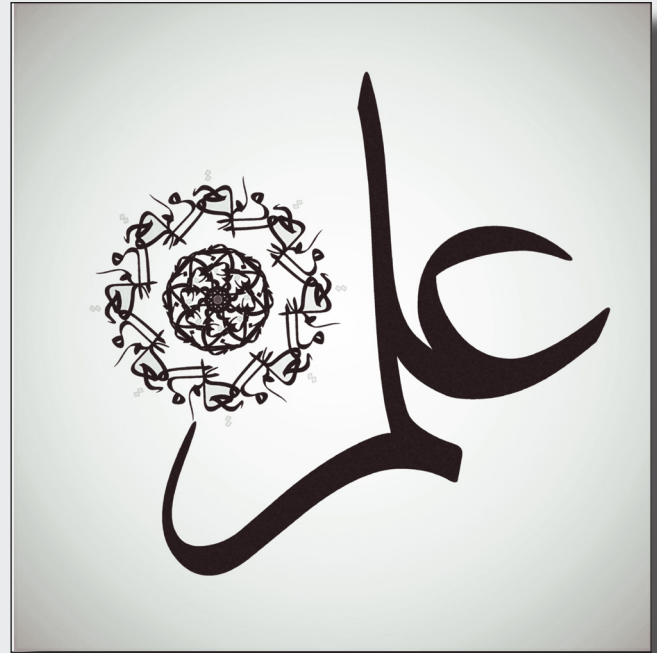
# VISION & MISSION

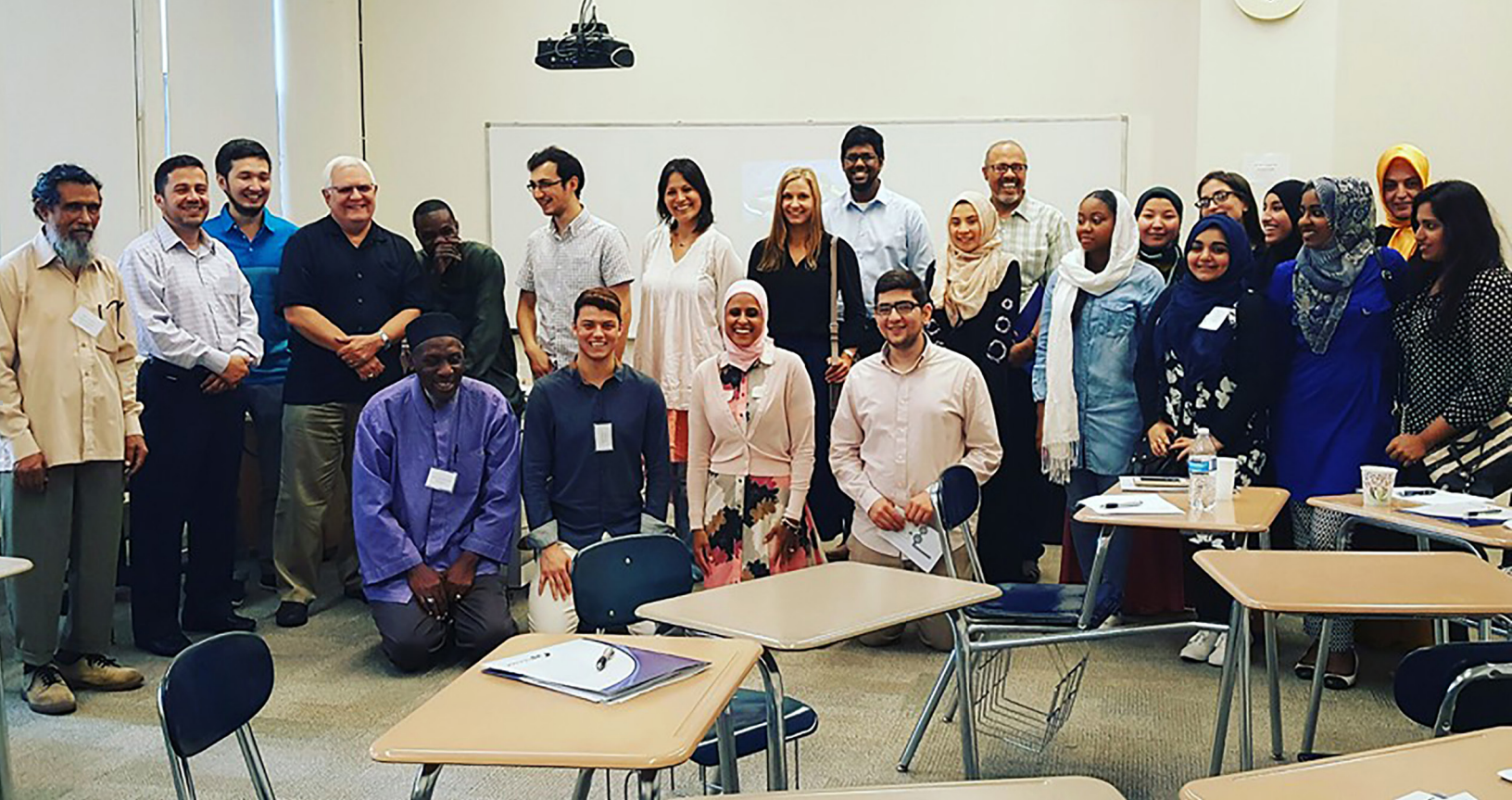
## OUR VISION

To become a highly valued Islamic University in the nation with a commitment to: offering academically rigorous and professionally sound programs; providing training for leadership and policy making roles in American society; and for management and staff of American Muslim institutions, and; serving as a resource to American institutions and individuals for learning about Islam.

## OUR MISSION

American Islamic College is an institution of higher learning grounded in Islamic values, embracing students of all backgrounds. Our Chicago location uniquely positions AIC to represent and research the diversity of Islam in America. AIC promotes appreciation for the scope and richness of Islamic history and civilization both in the classroom and by means of public events highlighting Islam's intellectual, artistic and cultural expressions. Through rigorous scholarship, civic engagement and interfaith/intercultural activities, AIC prepares our students to become global citizens and visionary leaders.





## ACCREDITATION STATUS

American Islamic College received IBHE degree-granting authority for its B.A. and M.A. programs in Islamic Studies in April 2014 and, in December 2014, for the Master of Divinity in Islamic Studies (Islamic Chaplaincy). AIC is not accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, our regional accreditor. So, students do not have access to FAFSA and other sources of federal and state funding.

## NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

In keeping with AIC's mission, philosophy, and dedication to educational integrity, the College does not tolerate any kind of discriminatory behavior. In accordance with state and federal law, AIC does not discriminate based on religion, ethnicity, culture, race, sex, age, physical disability, or on any other unlawful basis.

The administration, faculty, staff, and students at AIC are expected to support and uphold this policy. AIC

is committed to ecumenical, interfaith, interracial, and intercultural dialogue. AIC is devoted to creating an environment that is safe and accepting for all who desire to learn.

## STATEMENT ON EDUCATIONAL INTEGRITY

American Islamic College is committed to providing its students with a healthy and intellectually vibrant academic environment where their voices and thoughts are respected. Every student has the right to access ideas, share his/her thoughts, and pursue his/her academic goals without being subject to discrimination or intimidation. AIC is dedicated to building an encouraging atmosphere that strengthens confidence, promotes analytical thinking, nourishes the spirit, and inspires further learning.



**ADMISSIONS, POLICIES, &  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

# ADMISSIONS, POLICIES, & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

American Islamic College is pleased to review all applications submitted for its undergraduate and graduate programs. The Admissions Committee considers each applicant in a spirit of fairness and equality and so does not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, gender, age, ethnicity, or disability. The admissions process is competitive. A number of elements are considered when reviewing the application; these include letters of recommendation, test scores, essay, school/community involvement, and academic history. If necessary, a brief interview may be set up with a candidate by the Admissions Committee as part of the admissions process.

AIC encourages interested students to sign up for AIC's e-newsletter, which provides campus updates and pertinent information on academic programs and activities. AIC recommends scheduling a visit to tour the campus and attending information sessions. Please visit [www.aicusa.edu](http://www.aicusa.edu) or call 773.281.4700 for details.

## UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES & REQUIREMENTS

### First-Year Admissions Procedures

AIC maintains a rolling admissions process. Beginning in November, the Admissions Committee meets once each month to review applications. Priority is given to applications filed by or before April 1 for Fall admissions and by November 1 for Spring admissions. Applications received after the priority deadline will be considered if space is available. All applications received prior to April 1, will be notified by the AIC Admissions Committee by or before May 15. Early applications may be notified much sooner.



“Attending American Islamic College for my undergraduate studies was a great decision. Studying different religions, languages, and most importantly, being educated about Islam here in America is an incredible opportunity for me and my colleagues. The professors, staff, and environment are amazing and very friendly. I hope to complete my degree at American Islamic College and make the best of it while I am here.”

- Selma Agaoglu,  
BA Student in Islamic Studies

# UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES & REQUIREMENTS

1. A completed Undergraduate School Application Form with the \$25 processing fee.
2. An official copy of your high school transcript or evidence of the completion of a GED (hand-delivered but sealed copies of official transcripts are acceptable).
3. An essay of no less than 500 words, submitted with your Admissions Application, which addresses the following question: "Why I would like to major in Islamic Studies".
4. A copy of the results of your ACT or SAT scores.
5. Two letters of recommendation from teachers, counselors or extracurricular activity supervisors.

**AIC's Institutional code for SAT is 1031**  
**AIC's Institutional code for ACT is 0999**

The admission requirements for the undergraduate program include proof of graduation (official transcripts) from an accredited high school, or a passing grade on the General Educational Development (GED) test. A college entrance examination (SAT or ACT) is also required. Students will be expected to have obtained a minimum composite score of 21 on the ACT or 480 on Evidence Based Reading and Writing and 530 on Mathematics, section of the SAT, and/or possess a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75. Upon the recommendation of the Admissions Committee, a student not meeting these criteria might be considered for probationary admission on an individual case-by-case basis. Such students will be provided appropriate academic and/or other support-services not to exceed one semester and shall demonstrate subsequent satisfactory academic progress.

Applicants who are not proficient in English, will be asked to take the TOEFL. Based on the TOEFL score and possible consultation with the candidate, the

Admissions Committee will make the decision.

## **Transfer Policy & Procedures**

Transfer applicants should follow the standard admissions procedures found above, in addition to sending transcripts of all college-level work. Transfer students seeking admission to the AIC are eligible to apply if they have achieved an overall college average of at least 2.0 GPA or its equivalent and are in good academic standing; exceptional instances are considered on a case-by-case basis. Applicants with an Associate of Arts degree from an accredited junior or community college, or with more than 36 semester hour credits from another college or university, may not need to complete all of AIC's General Education Core requirements. This will be worked out on a case-by-case basis. Transfer students are admitted at the beginning of each semester. Due to the nature of some of the courses in Islamic Studies, students from non-accredited institutions specializing in Islamic religious instruction may be given credit for specific subjects based on transcripts and passing of equivalency exams administered by AIC.

Students may transfer credits from other universities/colleges to AIC if the credit satisfies AIC's Transfer Credit Policy.

The General Education Coordinator assesses the credit transfer request by obtaining the course number, course title, course description, number of credits, course syllabus, and grade achieved, from the student. The information must be from the college she/he is transferring. The Credit Transfer Request form can be obtained from the Registrar or downloaded from the website, <http://www.aicusa.edu/office-of-student-services/>.

# UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES & REQUIREMENTS

Additionally, the advisor may request that the student sit for an exam or test if more information is needed prior to accepting the course for transfer credit.

## ***Undergraduate students:***

AIC will accept baccalaureate transfer credit from fully accredited US colleges/universities and college-level course credit earned at a fully accredited, 2-year US institution.

Only courses with a grade of C or higher will apply to the student's major.

If a student repeated a course, then the most recent grade will be used for credit review.

All credit taken at foreign institutions will be subject to review. A course-by-course evaluation would need to be done by Foreign Credential Evaluators approved by AIC. Students will also be required to submit the course description (translated into English). Syllabi may be requested. Credits taken elsewhere do not contribute to the official College grade point average.

Transferable courses or test credit (e.g. AP) may be applied to the general education requirements and/or to the program requirements. The academic advisor or faculty will conduct a review of the test credit. Transferable credit or test credits may be applied as an elective, if accepted.

All transfer credit taken at another institution while concurrently enrolled at AIC is subject to approval. Students must get written approval from the Registrar's Office prior to enrolling.

Credit by examination may be accepted after review.

Students must take 60 hours of instruction at AIC to

earn their bachelors degree from AIC.

## ***Graduate students:***

AIC will accept graduate transfer credit from fully accredited US colleges/universities and college-level course credit earned at a fully accredited, baccalaureate US institution.

Only courses with a grade of B- or higher will apply to the student's major.

If a student repeated a course, then the most recent grade will be used for credit review.

All credit taken at foreign institutions will undergo a similar review. A course-by-course evaluation would need to be done by Foreign Credential Evaluators approved by AIC. Students will also be required to submit the course description (translated into English). Syllabi may be requested.

Transferable courses or test credit (e.g. Language course) may be applied to the program requirements. The academic advisor or faculty will conduct a review of the test credit. If a transferable course or test credit is deemed no longer current, the student may be required to repeat the course or test credit course equivalent in order to complete the degree. Other transferable courses or test credits may be applied as program electives.

Courses taken at another institution while concurrently enrolled at AIC, must be approved prior to transferring the credit to AIC.

Credit by examination may be accepted after review.

## ***Dual Enrollment:***

Credit from college courses taken during high

# UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES & REQUIREMENTS

school may be accepted after review. Students must submit the transfer request form 30 days prior to matriculation.

## ***Courses Not Accepted for Evaluation:***

- Courses from a trade school.
- Developmental courses in reading and math.

## **AP Credit**

Freshmen and transfer students entering AIC will be awarded AIC course credit in the amounts indicated below provided official AP score reports are submitted to the office of admission prior to enrolling at AIC.

- 5 extremely well qualified
- 4 well qualified
- 3 qualified
- 2 possibly qualified
- 1 no recommendation

Title	Min. Score	Credit
Biology	3	4
Statistics	3	3
Economics	3	3
English	4	3
Physics	3	4
Political Science	3	3
Psychology	3	3

## **Home-Schooled Students**

Home-schooled students intending on enrolling in the BA in Islamic Studies program are required to submit the following:

- A completed BA in Islamic Studies Application Form with the \$25 processing fee.
- Official high school transcripts or GED.
- Official college transcripts (if applicable).
- Two letters of recommendation, one of which can

be from a parent/teacher.

- Official SAT or ACT score report.
- An essay of no less than 500 words, submitted with Admissions application, which addresses the following question: “Why do you want to major in Islamic Studies at AIC?”

## **Second-Degree Students**

Students who have previously completed a baccalaureate degree and wish to pursue an additional baccalaureate degree at AIC will follow the standard application procedure for transfer students. Admitted students may be exempted from completing the general core requirements unless they are pertinent to the major or serve as a prerequisite. Second-degree students must complete a minimum of 36 credits in the second degree program at AIC in order to complete their degree program.

## **Deferred Admission**

Students who are accepted into the program at AIC may defer their enrollment for one year with a plausible reason. Students wishing to defer should submit a Deferment form to the Admissions Office. The Admissions Committee will review the Deferment form and make a decision on whether the candidate’s deferment is accepted or denied.

## **Reactivation of Application**

Students may reactivate their admission by submitting a Reactivation form to the Admissions Office. AIC holds student applications for one year. After careful review by the Admissions Committee, the student will be notified of the reactivation of the application and admissions process.

## **Readmission**

Students who have withdrawn from AIC must reapply

# GRADUATE ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES & REQUIREMENTS

by submitting a reactivation form.

## GRADUATE ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES & REQUIREMENTS

1. A completed Graduate School Application Form with the \$25 processing fee.
2. An official copy of your BA (or both BA and MA) transcript(s) from an accredited institution (hand-delivered but sealed copies of official transcripts are acceptable).
3. Either a writing sample based on one of your previous classes or an original essay of no less than 1000 words, describing your interests, aspirations, and previous background in this field (this should be submitted with your online application).
4. A copy of the results of your GRE or Miller Analogies Test (MAT) scores.
5. Two letters of recommendation from professors or employers who have direct knowledge of your academic ability and potential.

**AIC's DI Code for GRE is 3576**  
**AIC's Institutional Code for MAT is 2874**

Applicants to the MA or MDiv programs will be expected to have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.75 or a minimum graduate GPA of 3.00.

Additional factors, including the personal essay/writing sample, letters of recommendation, and/or a personal interview (optional), might also be used in making the final determination of full or probationary acceptance.

An applicant for the Graduate Program may petition to receive graduate credit for courses taken at other accredited colleges and universities. Approval

is dependent upon the Admissions Committee. For evaluation of courses taken prior to admission to the American Islamic College, the student must indicate on the application for admission any graduate transfer credit he or she would like to have considered. No more than nine (9) semester hours from other universities may be transferred and so counted toward the MA Degree in Islamic Studies at AIC. Students admitted to the American Islamic College Graduate Program may be allowed to enroll in select graduate courses at other accredited colleges or universities with the prior consultation and approval of the Director of the Program. Such courses shall not exceed nine (9) semester credit hours and shall be selected to correspond specifically to courses that help meet the MA degree requirements. Only graduate courses will be considered for graduate credit transfer.

It is preferable that prospective students complete the online application at <http://www.aicusa.edu/admissions/application-procedures>

Applications may also be downloaded from the AIC website and mailed to:

Admissions Office  
American Islamic College  
640 W. Irving Park Rd.  
Chicago, IL. 60613

## TYPES OF ADMISSION

American Islamic College issues regular, conditional, and provisional acceptances to undergraduate and graduate students.

### **Regular Admission**

Regular admission may be granted to an applicant who



**Sample list of estimated expenses for a student registered for 15 credit hours**

Undergraduate Tuition	\$3750/semester
Graduate Tuition (9 credit hours)	\$2250/semester
Books and Supplies	\$600/semester
Housing	\$500/month (single occupancy) \$375/month (double occupancy)
Application Fee	\$25 one-time fee
Library Fee	25¢/day for late materials
Technology Fee	\$50/semester
Credit by Examination	\$40/credit
Transcript	\$7/request
Parking	\$120/month
Returned Check Fee	\$35/occurrence
Re-Issue Lost ID	\$25/occurrence

meets the minimum admissions requirements related to the appropriate degree-program for which he/she is applying.

**Conditional Admission**

Conditional admission is for students who complete their application, but whose academic record does not reflect their current capacity to do undergraduate or graduate work. In those circumstances conditional admission may be issued upon the recommendation of a course. Conditional admission has a maximum time limit of one semester. Applicants admitted on a conditional basis must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 while enrolled at AIC. The

Admissions Committee will review the student’s progress during the midterm and a final decision will be made at the end of the term.

**Provisional Admission**

Provisional admission is for students who demonstrate the capacity to engage in academic study at AIC, but whose application remains incomplete. Final decision on an applicant admitted on a provisional basis shall be reserved until all missing documents are received but may not exceed one semester. For provisional admission status, an applicant must, as a minimum:

1. Submit the completed application form with a

# FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION

- non-refundable application fee of \$25.00
- 2. Submit official transcripts
- 3. Submit essay

## FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION

### Tuition and Fees

Tuition is calculated according to the number of credits each student is registered for in any given semester. AIC charges \$250/credit per academic semester for all degree and courses at AIC. For non-degree courses, AIC charges \$125/credit-hour per semester.

### Financial Aid

Currently, there is no Federal Aid (FAFSA) available for AIC academic programs. AIC may grant financial assistance to cover tuition costs to students who demonstrate financial need. A financial aid grant will not exceed the difference between estimated college costs and the anticipated support from all other sources. Students who wish to receive financial assistance must submit the AIC Financial Aid Form by the designated deadline. Financial assistance is limited; students are encouraged to apply early. Requests must be submitted annually.

### Scholarships

American Islamic College awards partial tuition scholarships to students who demonstrate high academic performance. Students must maintain “good academic standing”, in order for the scholarship to be renewed. Review of the student’s academic standing occurs in January, annually. There is no separate application for the scholarship. Please indicate that you would like to be considered for the scholarship in

your application.

If a student has been awarded the scholarship, then a letter will be issued outlining the details.

Scholarships are available to both part-time and full-time undergraduate and graduate students.

### AIC Work-Study Program

American Islamic College has limited part-time opportunities for AIC students. Priority is given to students who need to finance their education at AIC. Students who wish to join our AIC-based Work Study Program should contact the Office of Student Services. Students employed under this program are not permitted to work more than 20 hours per week during the academic term and may not work during scheduled class times.



*“I am grateful I joined this college, because I find it is really beneficial in many ways; it cultivates the mind and enriches the soul. The faculty are instrumental in motivating me to excel both mentally and spiritually. I advise those who would like to engage in the study of Islam to join AIC.”*

- Hozaiifa Majidi

BA Student in Islamic Studies

# ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Once the student's cover letter and resume are received, the Dean of Students sends them to the Director of Operations who coordinates the position and schedule for the student, if hired. The Finance Office issues payment.

## Payment

American Islamic College expects all students to pay the year's tuition by the first week of class. Students who wish to pay tuition using the monthly installment plan should contact the registrar's office for further information.

American Islamic College is committed to an ethical policy that stipulates that admissions, recruitment, financial aid and scholarship procedures will be performed with equity and fairness.

## Refund Policy

Non-attendance in a course does not constitute official withdrawal. Students who are registered in a course and yet fail to attend are held responsible both academically and financially for that course. Refunds are given only when the student officially withdraws with the knowledge and permission of the Registrar's Office. The following schedule is applied to registration costs (both credit and audit) and tuition-fees only. All fees and room charges are non-refundable.

### For a 15-week semester

First day: Full refund

First week: 85%

Second week: 50%

Third week: 30%

Beyond the third week: No refund

### For a 5-week intensive course

First day: Full refund

End of first week: 75%

End of second week: 25%

Third week and beyond: No refund

## Student Financial Responsibility

Students are responsible for their financial obligations to the College.

Students must register during the registration period to ensure proper billing and/or administration of financial assistance and scholarship awards.

Students must make their semester payments at the beginning of each semester or in accordance with payment plans issued by the College.

Students must have all documentation submitted in a timely fashion to the Registrar's Office to ensure timely disbursement of scholarships and financial assistance, evidence of registration, and file completion. Students should keep their most up-to-date billing address on file. Please notify the Registrar's Office of any address changes. Changes can also be made via Populi, the online student information system. Students must immediately notify the Registrar's Office of any course or College withdrawal. Failure to do so, will result in financial consequences.

Failure to pay tuition, or any College-related fees, may result in the immediate withdrawal of the student from classes, withdrawal from the semester, a block on future registration or on accessing grades and transcripts, withdrawal from commencement or graduation ceremonies, and/or a hold on the awarding of the degree.

## NEW STUDENTS

# ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Once the application period is complete and acceptance letters have been sent, students will then receive notification from the Registrar's Office regarding:

- Academic Advising
- Orientation
- Course Registration
- Financial Information
- Housing Details
- Student Access to Populi, the College's online administrative system

## REGISTRATION

Matriculated students are encouraged to schedule an appointment with their academic advisor regarding appropriate course choices prior to the close of registration.

Students must submit their registration form to the Registrar by the deadline, in order for to process the registration and confirm enrollment.

Students can access their course schedules and receive pertinent information regarding their classes, e.g. instructor name, classroom location, text information, etc. through the Populi system.

The Office of the Registrar is open Monday through Thursday, 9AM-5PM.

### **Class Availability**

AIC Coursework is designed around students who are continuously enrolled on a full time basis, students who enroll in one semester a year or take less than 10 courses a year which are recommended by the registering advisor may need to take courses elsewhere

if possible to graduate in a timely matter. Students who enroll on a less-than-full time basis have no guarantee on a specific date of graduation.

### **Academic Status**

**Full-Time Students:** Undergraduate students carrying 12-18 credit hours per semester are classified as full-time students. Graduate students carrying 9 or more credit hours are considered full-time. Remedial courses, while not counting toward the required 36 credit hours of the MA program, may still be considered part of the 9 credit hours required for full-time status. Registration in excess of 18 credit hours requires written approval from the VPAA.

**Part-Time Undergraduate Students:** Students may enroll in courses on a part-time basis. Undergraduate students carrying less than 12 credit hours per semester are classified as part-time students. Graduate students carrying less than 9 credit hours are considered part-time.

**Non-Degree Students:** Students not planning to enroll in a BA or MA degree program at AIC must submit a Non-Degree Course Application to the Registrar's Office. Non-Degree students may register for any number of credit hours (no minimum). Non-Degree students must reapply for regular admission if they decide to pursue a BA or MA program. Credits earned in this category may or may not be applicable towards the chosen program.

**Auditor:** An auditor is a student who attends a course not for credit but for personal enhancement. Students who desire to audit a course must file with the Registrar's Office before registration. The auditor must be granted approval from the instructor.

# ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

**Examinations and Evaluation:** The type and frequency of examinations and overall evaluation scheme are left to the discretion of the course instructor. AIC's Liberal Arts curriculum is writing-intensive, and so, aside from the courses in foreign language and art, each course must include a writing component (essays or essay-based exam). A final examination and/or final paper may be required at the termination of the course. Grading schemes and examination policies should be announced and explained in the course syllabus, which should be distributed and explained to the students at the beginning of the course.

## Undergraduate Student Standing

Year	Credits
Senior	Min. 89
Junior	60-88
Sophomore	29-59
Freshman	0-28

## Academic Records

Grade Reports and Transcripts: Grades are reported on Populi, the online administrative/student information system. Transcripts issued to students will be marked "student copy." Official transcripts are available at a charge of \$7 per transcript. Transcript requests should be made through Populi or on the transcript request form available in the Office of the Registrar. No transcripts will be issued for a student who has an outstanding financial obligation to the College, including dorm payments and fines for library material.

## Student Records

AIC maintains access to student records in conformity with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, and will not transmit any student records to

third parties without authorization in writing from the student, or in special circumstances, or a court order, where such transmission is authorized by the Act. AIC has a strict confidentiality policy; please see page 47 (in PDF).

Student records are primarily housed with the Registrar. These include the student's contact information, admissions application materials, AIC transcripts, notifications to the Registrar for entries on the transcript, written petitions for withdrawal, leave of absence, transfer and other records.

College policy, in conformance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, permits a student to inspect his or her own educational records unless the student has previously waived access, such as, in some cases, letters of recommendation for admission, or areas specifically detailed in the Act. A student wishing to review the records in his/her file must submit a written request to the Registrar. Within an appropriate time, the student will be notified of the date, time, and place for the inspection of the contents of his/her file in the presence of the Registrar.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

### All Students

- Satisfy all requirements related to the degree program
- Satisfy the language competency requirement (*See respective curricula for degree requirements*).
- Make a payment for all outstanding fees
- Return all College equipment and library resources
- File for Graduation at the Office of the Registrar by the deadline:

# ACADEMIC POLICIES

**Spring Graduation (May):** Application period is from September 1 - March 1

**Summer Graduation (August):** Application period is from December 1 - June 1

**Fall Graduation (December):** Application period is from April 1 - October 1

F (59-below)	Failure	0
P	Pass	0
I	Incomplete	0
W	Withdraw	0
WP	Withdrawn Passing	0
WF	Withdrawn Failing	0

## F Grade and Repeated Courses

A course in which a grade of 'F' is earned may be repeated only once. A student may retake any course, once, if he/she received a final grade of C, D, or F. When a course is repeated, only the higher grade is computed in the grade point average.

Credit can be earned only once for a given course. If a grade of 'F' is earned in a required course, it must be repeated. It is the student's responsibility for finding out whether a course is required in his/her program. An Incomplete course cannot be repeated. The student must obtain written approval for Repeating a Course from the Dean of Students. The approval form must be submitted to the Registrar for processing.

## Policy on Incompletes

Students who receive Incomplete grades must complete their work by the deadline indicated on the Academic Calendar. Failure to meet deadlines will result in the assignment of an "F" grade for the course.

A grade of "I" may be assigned when a student has completed and passed a majority of the work required for the course with a grade of C or better. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, if a student cannot complete the full course, then the student can present his/her case to the instructor in writing. This must be done one week prior to the final week of classes. The instructor will decide upon a grade of "I" although he/she is under no obligation to grant the student an "I." If the instructor decides to take the case, then he/she

*Note: If your anticipated degree completion is in August and have 12 or less credits remaining, then you may "walk" in the May commencement ceremony. You must still apply for graduation by the March 1 deadline.*

If you wish to change your graduation date, you must do so in writing. Your letter must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar.

# ACADEMIC POLICIES

## Grading System

The amount of work accomplished by a student is expressed in semester hours. In general, one semester hour represents one hour of class or two hours of laboratory work a week for a semester. The quality of the student's work is evaluated according to the following scale:

Grade	Definition	Grade Points
A(93-100)	Excellent	4.0
A- (90-92)		3.5
B+ (87-89)	Good	3.3
B (83-86)		3
B- (80-82)	Average	2.7
C+ (77-79)		2.3
C (73-76)		2.0
C- (70-72)	Poor	1.7
D+ (67-69)		1.3
D (60-66)		1.0

# ACADEMIC POLICIES

will have to assess the percentage of the remaining work in relation to what is left to complete the course, in order to determine the letter grade of “I”. A student cannot re-enroll in the same course later to complete an “I” grade. See the Policy on Repeating a Course.

Requests for an extension of a deadline for completion of an “I” grade are subject to the instructor’s approval. The student must submit the completed Extension Form to the Instructor for his/her signature. The instructor must indicate on the form the extended deadline. The instructor may extend the deadline for up to a maximum of two semesters. If the instructor signs the form, then the student must submit it to the Registrar’s Office for processing. If the extended deadline is met, then the instructor will change the grade accordingly. The instructor will have to submit this change within 2 weeks. If the student does not meet the extended deadline, then an assignment of an “F” grade will result, automatically.

A student can only have two “I” grades on their transcript. There is no credit for an “I” grade.

Students who will be graduating must meet all deadlines in order to graduate.

## **Add/Drop, W, WP, WF Policy**

### **Add/Drop**

Students may “Add/Drop” courses to their schedule within the allotted “Add/Drop” period. The “Add/Drop” period is indicated on the Academic calendar; it is typically after the first two weeks (equivalent to about 6-8 credit hours) of classes. The Add/Drop form must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office for processing.

### **W Period**

Students may withdraw from courses after the “Add/Drop” period has passed. The last day to “Withdraw” from a course is indicated on the Academic calendar, and is typically at the midterm in the ninth week of the semester. Students must complete the Add/Drop form, indicating a “Withdrawal” and having it signed by their instructor or academic advisor. The form must be, then, submitted to the Registrar’s Office for processing. A grade of “W” (withdrawn from course) will appear on the student’s transcript.

### **WP/WF Period**

Students wishing to “Withdraw” after the “Withdrawal” period must submit a completed Add/Drop form, indicating a “Withdrawal.” The student will receive either a “WP” (withdrawn passing) or “WF” (withdrawn failing) as determined and assigned by the course instructor. The student must obtain the instructor’s and advisor’s signatures on the form. The instructor must indicate a grade of “WP” or “WF” on the form. Then, the student must have their academic advisor sign the form and submit it to the Registrar’s Office for processing. A grade of “WP” or “WF” will appear on the student’s transcript.

After the eleventh week, a student may only withdraw from a class for non-academic reasons. The student will have to submit in writing the reasons for withdrawal to their academic advisor. An appropriate course of action will be taken in consideration of the request.

### **Withdrawal from All Courses/Leave of Absence**

A student who withdraws from all courses, during or at the end of the semester, or plans a leave of absence, must complete a Withdrawal or Leave of Absence Form, which can be found in the Registrar’s Office.

# ACADEMIC POLICIES

An honorable release is granted to students whose academic record makes them eligible to continue, or return to, the College and it states that they have met all obligations to the College. A student who withdraws from all courses must withdraw from residency in the dormitory. Withdrawal forms are available at the Main office.

## Final Grades

Final grades are issued on Populi two weeks after the close of the semester. If a student receives an extension or submits coursework late, then the grade will be processed and issued at a later time. Grades are considered final after 60 days. It is the student's responsibility to check the accuracy of his/her grades each semester. If a student wishes to file an appeal for a grade change, then the student must do so within the 60 day limit. Contact the Office of the Dean of Student's for details.

## Change of Grade

The request for a grade change is made by the instructor on an appropriate form signed by the VPAA stating the reason for the change. All grade change requests must be submitted before the end of the succeeding semester. No change of grade will be made by the Registrar's Office after the specified time.

## Grade Appeal Process

The Grade Appeal Committee is organized by the VP of Academic Affairs. It is made up of ad hoc committee members comprising of faculty.

You may only appeal the final grade for a course. You may appeal if:

- You are able to demonstrate that an inappropriate grade was assigned as a result of prejudice, or

mechanical error, or inconsistent grading as assigned to other students.

- You wish to challenge the reduction of a grade for alleged academic dishonesty.

## *Filing an Informal Grade Appeal*

Contact your instructor to request a grade change. If this step fails to resolve the issue, then follow the steps below.

## *Formal Attempt*

1. Prepare and submit a written appeal, no later than 15 calendar days after the start of the following regular semester to the VPAA.
2. It will be reviewed by the Grade Appeals Committee formed by the VPAA within 10 days to determine if a hearing is needed.
3. If needed, a hearing will be scheduled within 15 days after notification is given to both parties.
4. A written decision is sent to both parties within 3 days of the hearing conclusion.
5. Both parties have 6 days to appeal the decision in writing to the Grade Appeals Committee.

The Grade Appeals Committee will review the petition and make a final decision.

## **Credit by Examination**

Any student in good standing in the College may receive credit for any AIC course for which he/she demonstrates superior achievement by passing an examination in the subject matter. A request must be filed with the VPAA. Students will be recommended to take an appropriate exam in any one of the 33 areas provided by the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) of the College Board. Credit may also be granted if the student completes a qualifying challenge exam with a grade of B or better in a subject area

# ACADEMIC POLICIES

not available via CLEP. Students can receive credit by examination for up to 3 courses.

Native speakers of a language may not receive credit for any language course taken in their native language, unless their native proficiency is limited to an oral dialect. There is a \$40 fee for credit by examination.

## **Grade Point Average**

A minimum overall GPA of 2.0 must be maintained in the BA program for a student to remain in general “good standing”. Additionally, all students in the BA program are required to maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 in their obligatory 15 course/49-credit hour Core Requirement in Islamic Studies. MA and MDiv students are required to maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 to remain in good standing and remain eligible for scholarship support. A student maintaining an overall GPA of 3.5 or above, and having no D or F grades on their records, may be nominated for honors by their academic advisors. Such honors will be noted on the official record.

## **Graduate Degree Requirements**

Graduate students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0. Students are allowed no more than two grades of C. Upon receiving a third grade of C, students must retake the class in which the grade was received. Grades of D and F require that the course be retaken.

## **Academic Dishonesty, Dismissal and Appeal**

The faculty and administration of AIC agree that this institution will not tolerate academic dishonesty. Students have an obligation to maintain a high degree of academic integrity and to behave honestly and fairly with other students, their property, members of the College community, College guests, and College property. Any violation of this policy may result in

disciplinary action ranging from warning to expulsion from the College.

Dismissal may result if an attempt to remove his/her probationary status is not accomplished.

Students have the right to appeal their academic probation and/or dismissal status before the Dean of Students by submitting a written request for a hearing. The Dean of Students reviews all pertinent records to make his/her written recommendation to the VPAA.

## **Attendance**

Attendance is compulsory in all courses, including any or all laboratory sessions, lectures, and required class meetings. If a student has accumulated unexcused absences that amount to more than 20% of the total number of class contact hours (9 classes for a 2-course/week or 3 credit course), he/she may be dropped from the course automatically with a grade of W. If such a lack of attendance occurs in more than one course, a student may be suspended from the College without warning and may lose the right to reside in the dormitory.

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism occurs when one:

- Uses another’s work without proper citation.
- Takes another’s work and passes it off as his or her own.
- Takes exact wording without proper citations.
- Paraphrases another’s work without proper citations.

Plagiarism can result in a failing grade, academic suspension, or even expulsion from the College.

# ACADEMIC POLICIES

In cases where it is believed that the student did not take proper care in following standard academic protocols relating to the correct usage of citations, then the supervising faculty member must see to the student's correction and the student must correct such mistakes. There are a number of handbooks on how to properly cite academic work. One can find these sources online or in the College library.

## Copyright Act

Any infringement of The Copyright Law of the United States of America and related laws contained in Title 17 of the United States Code shall result in disciplinary action. Further offenses will result in a denial of access to computer and technological resources, and library resources. For more information on the Copyright Act, please visit: <http://www.copyright.gov/title17/92chap1.html#106>

## Probation

The academic records of all students are reviewed at the end of the Fall and Spring semesters. Any student who has a GPA falling below 1.5 in any semester or whose cumulative average falls below 2.0 will be placed on academic probation. Probationary status can be removed if a student achieves a semester GPA of 1.5 or a 2.0 cumulative GPA.

A student should seek assistance and counseling from an advisor and/or the instructor as soon as he/she experiences academic difficulties. As noted above, students on probationary status may lose eligibility for dormitory residence and financial aid from the College.

## Confidentiality of Student Records and Information

American Islamic College has strict confidentiality policy and respects students' private and academic

information. No student may access another's file. Students must display their student ID when requesting access to their student files. AIC will not share any information (personal or academic) about the student without the student's written consent.

## Disability Accommodations

The US Department of Justice states, "The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in employment, State and local government, public accommodations, commercial facilities, transportation, and telecommunications. It also applies to the United States Congress.

To be protected by the ADA, one must have a disability or have a relationship or association with an individual with a disability. An individual with a disability is defined by the ADA as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such an impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment. The ADA does not specifically name all of the impairments that are covered."

American Islamic College offers reasonable accommodations for qualified students. Those accommodations include, but are not limited to,

- Use of computer for in-class exams and assignments.
- An alternative test format.
- Extra time for the completion of in-class exams.
- If available, a different room for in-class exams.
- If available, an alternate desk/chair.

A reasonable accommodation is defined as a service that does not negatively impact the culture of the

# ACADEMIC POLICIES

college, the safety of its students, or the financial budget and responsibilities of the College.

To request an accommodation, the student must submit required documentation to the Office of Student Services. Based on the documentation submitted, the Office of Student Services will make a determination about the disability and accommodation. Once this documentation has been processed and a determination has been made, the Office of Student Services will inform the student and faculty of the approved accommodation. It is the student's responsibility to remind his/her instructor of any accommodations that have been approved for in-class exams at least one week prior to the exam.

The following forms must be completed and submitted to the Office of Student Services for processing at least one month prior to the start of the semester or academic year.

- Disability Accommodation Request Form.
- Medical Report.
- Office of Student Services Authorization Form.

Students with a disability who require additional accommodations should notify the instructor within the first week of the semester. Students must notify the Dean of Students by filing for disability within the 1st week of the semester. Please visit the Main office for details.

## **Commitment to Freedom of Academic & Intellectual Inquiry**

American Islamic College (AIC) is committed to the freedom of academic inquiry and intellectual expression. Faculty and students are encouraged to research and seek knowledge outside the bounds of

what is common as AIC believes such inquiry is the hallmark of education.

Only in the case that a proposal for an invited speaker or written work incites violence and hate, and causes members of the AIC campus to feel unsafe, does AIC reserve the right to respectfully decline such proposals. A topic that is controversial in nature does not apply. Where there is a fine line, a college committee of faculty and appropriate staff members will discuss the case and make a decision.

AIC is also committed to securing this freedom of academic and intellectual inquiry by ensuring that its students and faculty do not feel belittled, threatened, or traumatized by proposals for speakers and written work that reveal evidence of supporting hate crimes, sexual violence, racial and religious discrimination, etc.



## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

### BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ISLAMIC STUDIES

The Bachelor of Arts in Islamic Studies is a four-year sequence of instructional coursework that culminates in the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree. The Islamic Studies component of the Program features content and pedagogy commensurate with the disciplines of Islamic and Religious Studies, Qur'anic and Hadith studies, Islamic legal theory, classical Islamic theology and philosophy, Islamic spirituality, and allied social science, economic and political theories.

Students must also fulfill standard Bachelor's level requirements in general education, imparting a solid foundation in the humanities as well as the social and physical sciences. Upon completion, graduates will be prepared to pursue academic, occupational and career options, which are appropriately aligned with this field of study.

The following courses, or their equivalent, fulfill the undergraduate general education requirement in the BA program: The Bachelor of Arts in Islamic Studies Program requires 120 semester hours distributed as follows:

- 50 credit hours in the general education core courses (including obligatory classes in English composition, biological/physical sciences, humanities, social sciences and statistics/social research methods);
- 49 credit hours in the core courses in Islamic Studies; and
- 21 credit hours in elective courses in Islamic Studies.

#### General Education Courses (50 Credits)

##### English and Communications (12 Credits)

ENG 180 – Expository Writing	3 credits
ENG 181 – Critical Writing Methods	3 credits
ENG 201 – Communications	3 credits
ENG Elective (Select one)	
ENG 250 – American Literature	3 credits
ENG 251 – Muslim American Literature	3 credits

##### Quantitative Analysis (3 Credits)

QUANT 101 – Quantitative Literacy	3 credits
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##### Natural Sciences (8 Credits)

BIO 101 – Introduction to the Biological Sciences	4 credits
PHY 101 – Introduction to the Physical Sciences	4 credits

# BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ISLAMIC STUDIES

## Philosophy (3 Credits)

PHIL 101 – Introduction to Philosophy 3 credits

## Social Sciences (18-21 Credits)\*

ANTH 101 – Introduction to Cultural Anthropology 3 credits

ECON 101 – Introduction to Economics 3 credits

POLS 101 – Introduction to U.S. Government 3 credits

POLS 201 – Comparative Political Systems 3 credits

PSYC 101 – Introduction to Psychology 3 credits

RM 200 – Social Research Methods 3 credits

SOC 101 – Introduction to Sociology 3 credits

## Arts (3-6 Credits)\*

ARTS 160 – Arabic Calligraphy I 3 credits

ARTS 161 – Arabic Calligraphy II 3 credits

ARTS 170 – Ebru I 3 credits

ARTS 171 – Ebru II 3 credits

ARTS 180 – Stained Glass I 3 credits

ARTS 181 – Stained Glass II 3 credits

MUS 160 – Oud I 3 credits

MUS 161 – Oud II 3 credits

\* Social Science and Art credits need to total 24 credits. Students can choose to take 3 credits of Art with 18 credits of Social Science or 6 credits of Art with 15 credits of Social Science.

DR. OMER AWASS, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ARABIC & ISLAMIC STUDIES



# BA

## Courses in the Major (49 Credits)

### Core Courses

REL 100 – Religions of the World	3 credits
IS 130 – Islamic History & Civilization Origins to 1100 CE	3 credits
IS 131 – Islamic History & Civilization 1100-1800	3 credits
IS 132 – Islamic History & Civilization 1800-present	3 credits
IS 201 – Introduction to Qur’anic Studies	3 credits
IS 202 – Introduction to Prophetic Biography (Sirah) & Hadith Studies	3 credits
IS 301 – The Sciences of Hadith	3 credits
IS 305 – Islamic Legal Reasoning (al-fiqh)	3 credits
IS 320 – Muslim Spirituality	3 credits
IS 333 – Islam in America	3 credits
IS 428 – Muslim Great Books and Thinkers Seminar	3 credits
ARAB 101 – Elementary Arabic I	4 credits
ARAB 102 – Elementary Arabic II	4 credits
ARAB 201 – Intermediate Arabic I	4 credits
ARAB 202 – Intermediate Arabic II	4 credits

### 7 Elective Courses: Islamic Studies (21 Credits)

IS 220 – Readings in Sufi Texts	3 credits
IS 319 – Religion in Documentary Film	3 credits
IS 328 – History of Islamic Art & Architecture	3 credits
IS 329 – Islam & World Cinema	3 credits
IS 410 – Medieval Islamic & Jewish Philosophy	3 credits
IS 425 – The Islamic City	3 credits
IS 495 – Special Topics	3 credits
IS 497 – Independent Study	3 credits
IS 498 – Civic Engagement Internship	3 credits
IS 499 – Study Abroad	3-9 credits
ARAB 301 – Advanced Arabic I	3 credits
ARAB 302 – Advanced Arabic II: Reading Religious Texts	3 credits

## BA COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### ARAB 101 – Elementary Arabic I 4 credits

This course is an introduction to the phonology and writing system of Arabic, its basic vocabulary and structure. Students will acquire the foundations of Arabic grammar and build their vocabulary directed to reading and simple conversation, such as greetings and simple expressions of needs.

### ARAB 102 – Elementary Arabic II 4 credits

This course is a continuation of the mastery of Arabic phonology,

basic vocabulary and structure. Students will build their vocabulary and grammatical structures; emphasis will be placed on basic reading comprehension and sentence construction.

Prerequisite: Arabic 101, or equivalent.

### ARAB 201 – Intermediate Arabic I 4 credits

This course serves as an expansion and solidification of the student’s understanding of the classical Arabic language, including its verbal system. Building upon the students’ active

# BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ISLAMIC STUDIES

vocabulary and structural understanding, this course equips students with the basic tools to read, grammatically analyze, and translate selected classical and contemporary texts, which will be taken from various genres of Arabic prose literature.

Prerequisite: Arabic 102, or equivalent course.

## **ARAB 202 – Intermediate Arabic II 4 credits**

This course aims to develop a more fluent command of classical Arabic structure by guiding students in the careful reading, analysis, and translation of a wide selection of classical and contemporary texts. By the end of this course, students are expected to be able to read and translate selections of classical as well as contemporary texts in literary Arabic.

Prerequisite: Arabic 201, or equivalent.

## **ARAB 301 – Advanced Arabic I 4 credits**

Standing on the shoulders of our Introductory and Intermediate Arabic programs (ARAB 101, 102, 201, 202), this course moves graduate and advanced undergraduate students to the level of reading, grammatically analyzing, and translating classical Arabic texts. ARAB 301 marks the student's graduation to a level of independent text study, analysis, and translation.

Prerequisite: Arabic 202, or equivalent course.

## **ARAB 302 – Advanced Arabic II: Reading Religious Texts 4 credits**

Students with advanced standing in Arabic or the equivalent will read (in Arabic) selected texts based on themes determined by instructor interest or student need. Religious texts would typically be the focus of such a directed readings course, but students may be directed toward literary or political works depending upon their chosen concentration and individual program needs.

Prerequisite: Arabic 301 or equivalent.

## **REL 100 – Religions of the World 3 credits**

This course introduces students to the academic study of religion and the major religions of the world—including Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and others by examining their history and exploring their beliefs, moral teachings, rituals, and practices. Combines lecture and discussion.

## **IS 130 Islamic Origins, History and Civilization to 1100 CE 3 credits**

This course traces the rise and development of the Islamic religious tradition from its formal beginnings in the 7th century

to the middle of the thirteenth century, CE. Special attention is given to the pre-Islamic culture and economy of Arabia, the life of the Prophet Muhammad, the gradual revelation (nuzūl) of the Qur'an, major themes of the Qur'an, the early Muslim community (umma), the basic "pillars" of the Islamic religion (al-islām), the basic beliefs shared by all Muslims (al-īmān), Islamic piety, ethics, and spirituality (al-ihsān), the social and theological developments following the death of the Prophet in 632 CE, the emergence of the Sunnī-Shī'ī divide and other sectarian developments, the development and codification of the Islamic religious sciences, incl. Jurisprudence (al-fiqh), theology (al-kalām), and mystical spirituality (al-tasawwuf), the educational and social institutions of classical Islam, the scientific and philosophical achievements of classical Islamic civilization, and the major Muslim dynasties up to end of the Abbasids.

## **IS 131 – History and Civilization 1100 CE to 1800 3 credits**

This course continues our undergraduate survey of the historical, political, religious, and intellectual developments in Islamic Civilization up to 1800.

Prerequisite: IS130, or equivalent.

## **IS 132 – History and Civilization 1800 to Present 3 credits**

This course will examine the phenomenon of modernity and explore the varied contexts and ideas of Muslim thinkers who have responded to the ideals and realities of Modernity over the past two centuries.

Prerequisite: IS130, or equivalent.

## **IS 201 – Introduction to Qur'anic Studies 3 credits**

In this course, we read and analyze the Qur'an (in English translation), with attention to the following topics: the revelation and its original contexts, the collection of the canonical text; Qur'an recitation; structural, linguistic and literary features of the text; occasions of revelation and abrogation; major themes; law in the Qur'an; and introduction to modes of interpretation. Knowledge of Arabic is not required.

## **IS 202 – Introduction to Prophetic Biography (sīrah) and Hadīth 3 credits**

This course explores the life of the Prophet through biographical and historical works as well as selected traditions taken from the canonical collections of oral reports (hadīth) concerning his words and deeds. Special attention will also be paid to the political and cultural contexts of the biographers, historians, and Hadīth

narrators and collectors.

### IS 220 – Readings in Sufi Texts 3 credits

The Islamic faith has often been characterized by Muslims as consisting of outward practice, theology, and inward virtue known as *ih̄sān*. Considering the emphasis that the Islamic scriptures and Muslim figures of piety placed on the “soundness” of what is known in the Islamic tradition as the spiritual heart, Islamic spirituality and virtue ethics developed as an independent field of study under various names such as Sufism (*tasawwuf*), *tazkiya*, *ih̄sān*, and *irfan*. This science was taught as part of the core curriculum in classical institutions of Islamic learning alongside Islamic law (*fiqh*) and theology (*kalām*) as an essential complement and integral element of Islamic practice. This course will introduce students to this third dimension of the Islamic faith through examining the core elements of how many Muslim specialists understood Islamic spirituality and virtue ethics, while also exploring how it can be applied today to various contemporary issues such as social justice, environmental stewardship, and personal development. Translations of both classical and modern texts related to Islamic spirituality will be studied and discussed in this course.

### IS 301 – The Sciences of Hadīth 3 credits

This course introduces students to the history and methodology of the collection of the canonical collections of oral reports (hadīth narrations) concerning the Prophet Muhammad’s words and deeds. Topics include the historical evolution of the collection and study of the hadīth, technical terms of hadīth sciences, the categories of hadīth reports, the technical structure of hadīth reports, the science of men, the relationship between the hadīth and the Qur’an, the problem of contradiction within hadīth literature, and contemporary controversies within both traditionalist and academic discussions of hadīth.

### IS 305 – Islamic Legal Reasoning (*al-fiqh*) 3 credits

This course studies the historical development of the various methodologies for deriving juridical rulings from the revealed sources. Attention will be given to the principles of jurisprudence (*uṣūl al-fiqh*), the *fiqh* of religious observance, and the major theorists who shaped the Muslim legal tradition.

Prerequisite: IS 130, or equivalent.

### IS 319 – Religion in Documentary Film 3 credits

Bill Nichols writes: “Documentaries are about reality; they’re about something that actually happened.” How do documentaries

represent or construct “reality” and how do they use these tools for films regarding religion? What are the different modes of documentary films and what functions do they serve? These are some of the questions we will examine as we read about documentary films and their role in the representation of religious belief and practice, diverse religious groups and sects, and interfaith questions. The course will spend most of its time on films regarding Muslims and Islam but will also address the representation of major religions and non-major religious groups.

### IS 320 – Muslim Spirituality 3 credits

Following an overall historical approach, this course traces the origins and development of the mystical or experiential dimensions of Islamic spirituality, often collectively referred to as “Sufism,” from the prophetic period (7th century, CE) to the medieval Arabic and Persian traditions. Students will experience a first-hand encounter with the writings of many of the most noteworthy and seminal sages of the “Sufi” tradition and, through this experience, will grapple with many of the core ideas, practices, institutions, and social manifestations of the Muslim spiritual tradition.

Prerequisites: IS 130 or an equivalent.

### IS 328 – History of Islamic Art and Architecture 3 credits

This course introduces students to the rich heritage of Islamic art and architecture. Students will examine a number of examples of works of art and buildings from different periods and regions and discuss their artistic and architectural characteristics in conjunction with their historical and political background.

Prerequisite: sophomore status or consent of instructor.

### IS 329 – Islam and World Cinema 3 credits

This course will examine the various portrayals of Islam and Muslims in World Cinema (both in Muslim and non-Muslim societies) over recent decades. Students will have the opportunity to watch segments from several feature films, study the socio-political environment surrounding the period of each film, and draw conclusions on how the environment might have impacted the messaging of the film, and vice versa. Students will also discuss the impact World Cinema has had on Islam, Muslims and the world.

### IS 333 – Islam in America 3 credits

This course traces the history of Islam in America, beginning with the historical records of African Muslims who were forcibly

# BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ISLAMIC STUDIES

taken to the Americas as slaves and their enduring efforts to retain their culture, faith, language, and identity as Muslims. This course then explores the complex unfolding of African American Islam in its unique and varied manifestations, including the Moorish Science Temple and the Nation of Islam. We also study the waves of Muslim immigrants from the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, and the impacts they have had upon the shaping of American Muslim communities since the 1960s. Expanding our scope even further, we will explore American Muslim convert narratives, the rise of Islam within America's Hispanic, indigenous, and other ethnic populations, and the evolving adventure of what it means to be an American Muslim within the mosaic of the American Muslim community and the greater mosaic of the United States. Questions of religious pluralism, Islamophobia, portrayals of Islam in the mainstream American media, and future trajectories for American Muslims will also be considered.

## **IS 410 – Medieval Islamic and Jewish Philosophy 3 credits**

This course introduces the thought and context of the most influential philosophers known to medieval Islam and Judaism, including al-Kindī, al-Rāzī (Razes) al-Fārābī, Ibn Sīnā (Avicenna), Ibn Tufayl, Ibn Rushd (Averroes), Saadia Gaon (al-Fayyumi), Solomon Ibn Gabirol, Bahyā bn Paqudah, Abraham ibn Daud, Moses Maimonides, and Levi ben Gershom (Gersonides). Special attention will be given to philosophical understandings of religion and prophecy, the soul (psychology), the state (political philosophy), metaphysics, and religious critiques of Aristotelean rationalism within these sister traditions (esp. by Abū Hāmid al-Ghazālī and Judah Halevi).

Prerequisites: IS 130, PHIL 101, junior or senior standing

## **IS 428 – Muslim Great Books and Thinkers Seminar 3 credits**

This seminar explores some of the most important books and thinkers throughout Islamic History. Specific titles and figures are determined by the supervising faculty member convening the seminar. Through the careful reading, analysis, and discussion of the text (or texts) at hand, students are given a first-hand encounter with the greatest minds and insights of Muslim heritage, be it in the specific field of philosophy, science, politics, literature, theology, law, art, music, mathematics, or history.

Prerequisite: senior standing or consent of instructor.

## **IS 495 – Special Topics 3 credits**

Undergraduate students with advanced (junior) status or above may petition their academic advisor to enroll in no more than 3 graduate level courses compatible with their program.

## **IS 497 – Independent Study 3 credits**

Qualified students may arrange with specific instructions to undertake significant independent study on a topic not offered in the regular curriculum.

Sophomore status or consent of instructor.

## **IS 498 – Civic Engagement Internship 3-9 credits**

Students will engage in a social service organization where they can receive hands on training in a service field of their interest. All students must complete 120 hours of service at their field placement. Students will attend a 1-hour seminar each week to discuss their experience and draw upon the experiences of their classmates.

## **IS 499 – Study Abroad 3 credits**

In consultation with an academic advisor, qualified advanced students may be allowed the option to register for study abroad credit during the semester, semester breaks, and/or summer sessions

## GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **ARTS 160 – Arabic Calligraphy I 3 credits**

This course will introduce students to the different styles of Arabic Calligraphy while focusing on Thuluth, a style that emerged in the 11th century CE. By the end of the course, students should be able to produce a composition of their own and utilize the rules of measurement to check their work for mistakes. They will also be able to distinguish between various styles and judge the authenticity of each style relying on the rules they have learned in class.

### **ARTS 161 – Arabic Calligraphy II 3 credits**

The course will continue to develop skills acquired in Calligraphy 101. Students will learn the use of the traditional reed pen (Qalam) for writing letters in the Thuluth style. They will also be introduced to connecting the letters to construct words in this style. By the end of the class students will be able to produce a piece of their own calligraphic art.

Prerequisite: Calligraphy 101, or equivalent.

### **ARTS 170 – Ebru I 3 credits**

Ebru, often referred to as the “dance of color on water”, is an authentic Turkish art that has been considered a spiritual art for centuries. This unique art form is produced by sprinkling color pigments into a trough of oily water and utilizes special brushes to create various designs that are then transferred onto a sheet of paper or other surface. This class will cover a variety of techniques that participants will use to create their own masterpieces.

### **ARTS 171 – Ebru II 3 credits**

Continues to build on the techniques introduced in Ebru I.

Prerequisite: Ebru I, or equivalent.

### **ARTS 180 – Stained Glass I 3 credits**

This course will demonstrate how colored glass is crafted into stained glass windows in which small pieces of glass are arranged to form patterns or pictures, held together (traditionally) by strips of lead and supported by a rigid frame. Students will learn how to paint details and stain their designs.

### **ARTS 181 – Stained Glass II 3 credits**

Continues to build on the techniques introduced in Stained Glass I.

Prerequisite: Stained Glass I, or equivalent.

### **ANTH 101 – Introduction to Cultural Anthropology 3 credits**

This course is designed to introduce students to the methods, theories, and concepts of cultural anthropology. Cultural anthropology is a social science that provides a comprehensive understanding of human diversity. In this course we will focus on the basic concepts used by anthropologists in order to compare and contrast how living people with different cultural traditions conduct their everyday life through language, economy, family life and kinship, religion, and other institutions.

### **BIO 101 – Introduction to the Biological Sciences 4 credits**

This course will cover the fundamental concepts in biology including the scientific method, cell structure and function, cell physiology, cell reproduction and development, Mendelian and population genetics, natural selection, evolution and ecology. Includes a laboratory hour each week.

### **ECON 101 – Introduction to Economics 3 credits**

This course is an introduction to micro- and macroeconomics. Students will learn how to utilize these economic concepts to understand the impact of finance on the world, particularly on public policy issues. This course will focus on the principles of supply and demand, fiscal and monetary policy, and governmental roles.

### **ENG 180 – Expository Writing 3 credits**

This course is designed to develop the student’s ability to produce clear expository prose. The course will focus on audience analysis, topic selection, thesis support and development, editing and revision.

### **ENG 181 – Critical Writing Methods 3 credits**

This course is designed to develop the student’s ability to read academic texts critically by differentiating between claims, assumptions and evidence-based arguments. Students will examine the nature of deduction, induction and informal Fallacies, thus critiquing the author’s reasoning in clear and concise language. Students will study several texts and write critical analysis papers in response to them.

### **ENG 201 – Communications 3 credits**

This course is designed to develop the student’s ability to apply the various principles of oral communication. Students will learn how to communicate effectively in small group, public speaking and interpersonal communication contexts.

### **ENG 250 – American Literature 3 credits**

This is an introductory survey of major works and authors representative of the development and current state of American literature. Prerequisite: ENG 180, or equivalent or consent of instructor.

### **ENG 251 – Muslim American Literature 3 credits**

This class will introduce writings by American Muslim novelists and poets from diverse backgrounds. These writings will be discussed in the context of American literary forms and themes as well as explored for their content and relationship to the Islamic heritage and Muslim concerns.

Prerequisite: ENG 180, or equivalent or consent of instructor.

# BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ISLAMIC STUDIES

## **MUS 160 – Oud I 3 credits**

This class will introduce the students to the art of playing the Oud. The students will be coached on the proper way to hold the instrument and the Plectrum. We will study the Arabic style tuning and western style notation system. The students will learn simple melodies from various parts of the Middle East and by the end of the course they will be able to perform these pieces in a group setting.

## **MUS 161 – Oud II 3 credits**

Continues to build on the techniques introduced in Oud I.

Prerequisite: MUS160, or equivalent.

## **PHIL 101 – Introduction to Philosophy 3 credits**

Through class discussion and student papers this course focuses on the nature of careful inquiry and some of the enduring philosophical questions of the ages. It examines the reasoning process and classical and contemporary problems in philosophy.

## **PHY 101 – Introduction to the Physical Sciences 4 credits**

This course serves as an introduction to physical science for non-science majors. Selected topics in astronomy, chemistry, geology and physics are included. Emphasis is placed on understanding the fundamental principles of the physical sciences. It will also include a discussion of the limitations and potential applications of the physical sciences. This course requires laboratory work.

## **POLS 101 – Introduction to U.S. Government 3 credits**

This course is concerned with government and politics in the United States, primarily at the national level, but some attention will be given to state and local government, particularly the nature of Illinois' Constitution. Students will examine the institutional rules and human behaviors that shape government, the operation of elections, the development of parties and interest groups, public opinion, and the functioning of Congress, the presidency, and the courts. An historic overview of the topics will shed light on how the current system has evolved.

## **POLS 201- Comparative Political Systems 3 credits**

This course will introduce students to the major theoretical approaches in the comparative study of politics. The student will learn to apply these approaches to better understand the development and operation of government institutions, the policy-making process, political participation, economic

structures and social change for both state and non-state actors. A comparative analysis of approaches to government in Muslim and non-Muslim societies will be explored.

## **PSYC 101 – Introduction to Psychology 3 credits**

This course will discuss the scientific method, fundamental principles of sensory processes, learning and language, development, human development, adjustment, emotions and motivations and individual and group behavior.

## **QUANT 101 – Quantitative Literacy 3 credits**

Quantitative Literacy focuses on the mathematical and algebraic methods needed to describe, analyze, and then respond to our world. Students will work with concept models including percents, ratios, formulas, variables, linear equations, and graphs set within the context of contemporary issues. The course will strengthen students' ability to read about, write about, and question health, societal, and economic issues. They will do this through solving application based problems, understanding the use of symbols, and applying various mathematical techniques needed to effectively use and manipulate quantitative information.

## **RM 200 – Social Research Methods 3 credits**

This course is designed to offer a comprehensive and systematic treatment of the scientific method as it especially applies to the social sciences. Students will learn the relationship between theory, research and practice, and integrate research activity in an orderly framework. The varied stages of research will be explored, including the definition of the research problem, statement of the hypothesis, research design, measurement, data collection, data analysis and generalization. Students will be required to design, administer and analyze the results of a modest social questionnaire/survey or research project.

## **SOC 101 – Introduction to Sociology 3 credits**

In this course, students will learn about the role of society in human lives and the ways that and social forces influence human behavior.

MA

## MASTER OF ARTS IN ISLAMIC STUDIES

The MA degree program is designed to provide students with a rigorous background in both traditional and analytical approaches to Islamic Studies. The program offers two distinct areas of concentration: *Islamic Theology* and *Islam and Global Studies*. The *Islamic Theology* concentration will train students in such disciplines as Qur'anic studies, Hadith studies, Islamic Jurisprudence (*al-Fiqh*), and Islamic Spirituality. The *Islam and Global Studies* concentration will focus on Islamic history, international studies, and critical theory. Students in both tracks will take the same core courses, thus ensuring that students acquire a well-rounded foundation in both areas.

MDiv students, or MA students who wish to go on for the Master of Divinity in Islamic Studies must select the *Islamic Theology* concentration.

All MA students are expected to complete *36 credit hours*. Students at the graduate level are required to take *21 credit hours* as part of the core requirements and *15 credit hours* in their concentration. As part of the MA program, students are required to complete a MA Thesis, IS 559 or 589 - which is counted as a 3 credit 500-level course within the chosen area of concentration.

DR. FERYAL SALEM, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ARABIC AND ISLAMIC STUDIES  
DIRECTOR, MASTER OF DIVINITY IN ISLAMIC STUDIES AND MUSLIM CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM



# MASTER OF ARTS IN ISLAMIC STUDIES

## Islamic Studies Core Requirements: 21 credit hours

ARAB 301 – Advanced Arabic I	3 credits
IS 501 – The Academic Study of Islam	3 credits
IS 503 – Reading and Interpreting the Qur'an	3 credits
IS 504 – Prophetic Biography and Hadith	3 credits
IS 511 – Islamic Ethics and Spirituality	3 credits
IS 515 – Islam and Gender	3 credits
IS 516 – Great Debates within Muslim Theology	3 credits

## MA Concentration in Islamic Theology

Select Any Four + Thesis

ARAB 302 – Advanced Arabic II	3 credits
IS 505 – Hadith Sciences	3 credits
IS 531 – Islamic Mysticism (Sufism)	3 credits
IS 532 – Islamic Philosophy and Theology	3 credits
IS 535 – Advanced Qur'anic Studies	3 credits
IS 536 – Advanced Hadith Studies	3 credits
IS 540 – Islamic Jurisprudence ( <i>al-fiqh</i> ): Theory and Application	3 credits
IS 545 – Intra-Muslim Diversity and Dialogue	3 credits
IS 550 – Comparative Religion	3 credits
IS 555 – Special Topics	3 credits
IS 557 – Religious Studies: Theory and Method	3 credits
<b>IS 559 – Thesis</b>	<b>3 credits</b>

## MA Concentration in Islam and Global Studies

Select Any Four + Thesis

ARAB 302 – Advanced Arabic II	3 credits
IS 560 – History of Muslim-Christian Relations	3 credits
IS 561 – History of Muslim-Jewish Relations	3 credits
IS 565 – Islamic Political Thought	3 credits
IS 566 – Islam and the Media	3 credits
IS 570 – Islam and the African-American Experience	3 credits
IS 573 – Islam in Local Contexts: (Variable Regions)	3 credits
IS 575 – Contemporary Muslim Movements	3 credits
IS 576 – Islam and Religious Diversity	3 credits
IS 580 – Literature from the Muslim World	3 credits
IS 585 – Special Topics	3 credits
<b>IS 589 – Thesis</b>	<b>3 credits</b>

## MA COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **ARAB 301 – Advanced Arabic I 3 credits**

This course stands on the shoulders of the Introductory and Intermediate Arabic curricula (ARAB 101, 102, 201, 202) and so will move graduate and advanced undergraduate students to the level of independent proficiency in reading, grammatically analyzing, and translating classical Arabic texts. ARAB 301 is the minimum Arabic standard for completion of the MA at AIC, for it marks the student's graduation to a level of independent textual study.

Prerequisite: Arabic 202, or equivalent course.

### **ARAB 302 – Advanced Arabic II 3 credits**

Students with advanced standing in Arabic or the equivalent will read (in Arabic) selected texts based on themes determined by instructor interest or student need.

Prerequisite: Arabic 301 or equivalent.

### **ENG 500 – Academic Writing and Research Methods 3 credits**

Designed for students who do not have a strong background in Humanities research and academic writing, this special course serves to teach graduate students to conduct research and write research-based, academic essays in AIC's graduate program. Personalized instruction sessions for each student will also be part of this course. While it may be required of selected graduate students, this class is deemed to be additional to the core requirements for the MA and MDiv degrees and so is not counted toward the overall credit hours required for these degrees.

### **IS 501 – The Academic Study of Islam 3 credits**

This course introduces advanced level students to major topics, resources, and figures in the academic study of Islam as a foundation for graduate study. It therefore engages both traditional Muslim and critical historical approaches to major sources and developments in the field.

Prerequisite: IS130/IS131

### **IS 503 – Reading and Interpreting the Qur'an 3 credits**

In this course, we read and analyze the Qur'an (in English translation), with attention to the following topics: the revelation and its original context, the collection and standardization of the canonical text; structural, linguistic and literary features of the text; the occasions of revelation; the principle of abrogation;

major themes of both the Meccan and Medinan recitations; law in the Qur'an; and an introduction to the various hermeneutical approaches or modes of interpretation within Muslim exegesis traditions. Knowledge of Arabic is not required.

### **IS 504 – Prophetic Biography and Hadith Literature 3 credits**

Drawing upon the earliest biographical and historical sources, as well as passages from the Qur'an and Prophetic traditions (hadith), this course explores the life and legacy of the Prophet Muhammad.

### **IS 505 – Hadith Sciences 3 credits**

This graduate course introduces students to the history and methodology of the collection of the canonical collections of oral reports (hadith narrations) concerning the Prophet Muhammad's words and deeds. Topics include the historical evolution of the collection and study of the hadith, technical terms of hadith sciences, the categories of hadith reports, the technical structure of hadith reports, the science of men, the relationship between the hadith and the Qur'an, and traditional approaches to resolving the problem of contradiction within hadith literature.

### **IS 511 – Islamic Ethics and Spirituality 3 credits**

This course introduces students to the study of ethics within a classical Islamic textual framework, which includes the Qur'an, Prophetic (hadith) traditions, early spiritual classics, Muslim philosophical writings, and other great works that approach the subject from a range of disciplines and perspectives.

### **IS 513 – Themes in Critical Theory and Islamic Thought 3 credits**

This course introduces students to the study of ethics within a classical Islamic textual framework, which includes the Qur'an, Prophetic (hadith) traditions, early spiritual classics, Muslim philosophical writings, and other great works that approach the subject from a range of disciplines and perspectives.

### **IS 515 – Islam and Gender 3 credits**

This course explores the construction of normative gender roles in classical Muslim sources as well as gendered practices in diverse Muslim societies. Muslim perspectives as interacting with the emerging field of Gender Studies and a wide array of feminist approaches, from secular feminists to Muslim feminist

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authors and activists, will also be considered. Students will learn about normative Islamic values and legal rulings on gender and sexuality and come to understand and appreciate the historical development of social and cultural practices within Muslim societies with regard to gender roles.

## **IS 516 – Great Debates within Muslim Theology 3 credits**

This course examines some of the greatest theological debates in the history of Muslim theological reflection and interpretation. Key topics will include the relation between belief and action, free will versus Divine determinism, the createdness or eternity of the Qur'an, Divine justice, the cessation or continuation of prophecy, and the doctrinal and historical complexities involved in the competing notions of Caliphate and Imamate.

## **IS 531 – Islamic Mysticism (Sufism) 3 credits**

This course examines interrelated topics in Muslim mystical traditions and other forms of spirituality, such as asceticism (zuhd) and supererogatory devotion. Specific attention will be given to the lives and teachings of major Muslim mystics in the Arabic and Persian traditions, their writings, and their impact on religion and society. Topics may include: mystical experience as a path to knowledge, remembrance (dhikr), the beautiful names of Allah, and the rise and respective methodologies of the Sufi orders.

## **IS 532 – Islamic Philosophy and Theology 3 credits**

This course explores issues and sources in early Islamic thought that pertain to human reason and the rational engagement with revelation. Topics thus include the Qur'an, the intellectual encounter with Hellenistic (Greek) thought in early Islam, the rise of the "scholastic" or dogmatic theologians (al-mutakallimūn), such as the Mu'tazilites and the Ash'arites, and the Muslim philosophers (al-falāsifa) and their critics.

## **IS 535 – Advanced Qur'anic Studies 3 credits**

This graduate level course assumes significant background in Qur'anic Studies. In addition to providing an overview of the Qur'anic sciences and the spectrum of hermeneutical approaches within the exegetical (tafsīr) tradition, this course will take up both classical and contemporary Muslim works in the field of Qur'anic Studies and will also probe the implications of Qur'anic interpretation.

Prerequisite: IS201 and IS 416 (equivalent or Consent of Instructor).

## **IS 536 – Advanced Hadith Studies 3 credits**

This graduate level course assumes the foundation of IS202 or its equivalent. Students will delve more deeply into the sciences of hadith evaluation, the ways of resolving conflict or contradiction between hadith traditions (ikhtilāf al-hadith), and the use of hadith in juridical reasoning and rulings. A wide array of contemporary Muslim and non-Muslim scholarship on hadith will be reviewed, evaluated, and critiqued.

Prerequisite: IS202, or equivalent or Consent of Instructor.

## **IS 540 – Islamic Jurisprudence (al-fiqh): Theory and Application 3 credits**

This course focuses on Islamic juridical reasoning and rulings in the areas of both religious devotion and social transactions as interpreted by the canonical schools of Islamic law. Students learn how human actions are legally considered and classified. Topics to be examined include the five pillars (obligatory religious practices) of Islam, Islamic finance and business law, inheritance law, and legal approaches specific to Muslim communities when they are religious minorities. The role of context and underlying intent of the law will also be covered. This area of study will provide students with a knowledge base to consider more complicated legal questions.

## **IS 545 – Intra-Muslim Diversity and Dialogue 3 credits**

This course considers the diversity of interpretations and the emergence and character of various sectarian divisions within Islam. Early theological debates and the classics of Islamic heresiography will be explored, as will contemporary polemics and more ecumenical theological approaches. The importance of intra-Muslim cooperation and dialogue in a pluralistic world will also be discussed.

## **IS 550 – Comparative Religion 3 credits**

This course introduces graduate students to the academic study of world religions - including Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, indigenous religions of North America, or other traditions - with an emphasis upon the comparative study of belief, ritual, ethics, religious experience, social constructions (incl. gender), contemporary challenges, and the ways in which history and culture play formative roles in shaping traditions.

## **IS 555 – Special Topics 3 credits**

This course allows AIC graduate students to take courses offered in variable special topics: for example, courses offered by visiting faculty (if and when these are suitable electives for the Islamic

Theology track in the MA program). Alternatively, this course heading might also be used to accommodate study abroad options and/or academic internship opportunities within approved cultural, governmental or non-governmental organizations.

### **IS 557 – Religious Studies: Theory and Method 3 credits**

This advanced graduate course focuses on a variety of methodological approaches to the study of religion; students explore forms of religious expression, issues within religious worldviews, and challenges facing religion in the modern world. Major theories and theorists of religion since the 19th century will be introduced as well as the approaches of various disciplines—psychology, sociology, theology, cultural anthropology, etc. within the contemporary academic study of religion.

### **IS 559 – Thesis 3 credits 3 credits**

The MA thesis should be a MLA or an APA-formatted paper summarizing the research the student has done under the supervision of a full-time faculty member of the Islamic Studies Program. This research should encompass subject matter related to the student's declared area of concentration in Islamic Theology. The faculty-mentor and student must agree on a research topic and thesis committee of three persons: the faculty research-mentor, and two additional faculty readers from the Islamic Studies Program. Enrollment is restricted to students who have completed all core requirement courses and who have completed two or more classes in the specialized area of Islamic Theology. Registration may be extended for students who receive a grade report of In Progress (IP) at the end of a traditional semester.

Prerequisite: Consent of Academic Advisor

### **IS 560 – History of Muslim-Christian Relations 3 credits**

This course is an introduction to the long and interactive history of Muslim-Christian relations, which will be traced from the Prophetic period until contemporary times. Representations of the other will be examined, as will related issues of violence, subjugation, and oppression; historical moments and contexts of collaboration, reconciliation, and positive inter-religious engagement will also be explored.

### **IS 561 – History of Muslim-Jewish Relations 3 credits**

Similar in theme and method to IS 560, this course traces Muslim-Jewish relations from the Prophetic period to the present day.

### **IS 565 – Islamic Political Thought 3 credits**

This course attempts to trace, examine, and discuss the ways in which Muslims have perceived the political life, beginning with the establishment of the first Islamic society or Ummah in Medina (622 CE) and culminating with contemporary movements and societies based on Islamic ideals and Muslim political philosophies (for example Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Taleban state in Afghanistan, and Islamist movements). Theories and debates about the nature of the Islamic State, Islam and democracy and cognate sociopolitical themes and philosophies will be explored.

### **IS 566 – Islam and the Media 3 credits**

Students will study the representation of Islam in various media starting with a historical sense of anti-Muslim medieval polemic, Orientalism, and other sources of stereotyping and misconceptions. Students may also be trained in how to establish media relations, compose press releases, and conduct interviews with the media.

### **IS 570 – Islam and the African-American Experience 3 credits**

This course is designed to introduce students to major figures, movements and developments in African American Muslim history. It will explore the intersection of race, religion, and ethnicity in the various ways African American Muslims have negotiated their identities and religious practices.

### **IS 573 – Islam in Local Contexts: (Variable Regions) 3 credits**

This course heading offers opportunities to explore the ways in which the religion of Islam becomes manifest within particular historical, geographical, and cultural contexts. The region under study will vary each time this course is offered. For example, students may have the opportunity to study Islam and Muslim cultures in Africa, Central Asia, Iran, Turkey or South and Southeast Asia.

### **IS 575 – Contemporary Muslim Movements 3 credits**

This course examines the contexts and ideas of Muslim thinkers and reformers since the late 19th century as well as their impact upon Muslim societies and Muslim minority communities in the fields of religion, politics, social theory, and economics. Students will learn about the dynamics of Muslim social movements, specific Islamization movements (both national and transnational), and examples of the transformation of Muslim

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societies occurring through individual acts of self-discipline and piety rather than engaging state power. Movements such as Wahhabism, Salafism, the Muslim Brotherhood, the Jamaat-i Islami, Muslim modernism/ liberalism, and the Turkish Nur communities may be among the movements discussed.

## **IS 576 – Islam and Religious Diversity 3 credits**

This graduate seminar will explore key thinkers and historical moments that offer insights into the special question of what it means to live in a world of many faiths. Foundational texts, such as the Qur'an, Tafsir literature, and Hadith traditions, will be explored as essential elements of Islamic theologies of religious diversity, which will then move into the study of specific historical and/or contemporary thinkers and contexts.

## **IS 580 – Literature from the Muslim World 3 credits**

This course may cover varying content supporting the study (in English translation or in original languages) of literatures from specific languages such as Arabic, Persian, Turkish, or Urdu. It may also be taught thematically or as a survey covering themes in classical or contemporary literature produced by Muslims.

## **IS 585 – Special Topics 3 credits**

This course topic allows students to take courses offered in

variable special topics, for example, courses offered by visiting faculty (if and when these are suitable electives for the Global Studies track in the MA program). Alternatively, this course heading might also be used to accommodate study abroad options and/or academic internship opportunities within approved cultural, governmental or non-governmental organizations.

## **IS 589 – Thesis 3 credits**

The MA thesis should be a MLA or an APA-formatted paper summarizing the research the student has done under the supervision of a full-time faculty member of the Islamic Studies Program. This research should encompass subject matter related to the student's declared area of concentration in Global Studies. The faculty-mentor and student must agree on a research topic and thesis committee of three persons: the faculty research-mentor, and two additional faculty readers from the Islamic Studies Program. Enrollment is restricted to students who have completed all core requirement courses and who have completed two or more classes in the specialized area of Global Studies. Registration may be extended for students who receive a grade of report of In Progress (IP) at the end of a traditional semester. Prerequisite: Consent of Academic Advisor



## MASTER OF DIVINITY IN ISLAMIC STUDIES

The Graduate Masters of Divinity in Islamic Studies is a three to four year program designed specifically for students who wish to become professional and credentialed Muslim leaders, spiritual care givers, or chaplains. The curriculum, presented below, was developed in consultation with some of the most prominent Muslim chaplains, therapists, bioethicists, and spiritual care givers in America, and, as a result, it offers a richness of practical education in conversation with contemporary counseling and psychology education. Our program development consultation partners also included some of America's leading Jewish and Christian seminaries, and so students enrolling in this program benefit from the best of expert opinion, even across the boundaries of tradition.

As is evidenced below, the program requirements ensure a robust theological preparation that overlaps entirely with the Islamic Theology-track of our MA program, but – instead of awarding a Master's of Arts in Islamic Theology at the end of the second year (the 36 credit hour mark) – the MDiv degree program requires an additional three terms of full-time, rigorous training in the core competencies Muslim spiritual caregivers and chaplains need to be effective in their day-to-day work within a North American environment. These competencies include the basics of pastoral care, psychological assessment and counseling, cross-cultural communication, conducting and/or facilitating Islamic devotional rites and lifecycle ceremonies, unique skill-sets for spiritual care within hospitals and prisons, working competently with trauma, and developing service programs to meet constituent needs.

Therefore the MDiv program consists of three to four years (72 hours) of academic study, pastoral education, and fieldwork/ internship experience. This is quite consistent with the requirements found within Divinity programs at some of our sister institutions here in Chicago and across North America. While studying alongside our MA Students in the Islamic Theology track, MDiv students are required to fulfill all of the requirements for the MA, which is conceived to consist of two years of full-time study (36 credit hours). Then, in the third and fourth years of the MDiv program, students are required to take a minimum of eleven (11) courses, seven (7) of which are core requirements of the MDiv program. Each of these courses count for three (3) credit hours of study except for IS 601 (the spiritual care/leadership/chaplaincy training practicum), which includes a

final paper and so counts for a total of six (6) credit hours. The required, core courses are noted by boldfaced type below while the elective courses are in regular typeface.

**IS 600 – Introduction to Clinical Pastoral Education**

**IS 601 – Spiritual Care/Leadership/Chaplaincy Training Practicum (400-hour internship plus paper for a total of 6 credits)**

**IS 602 – Islamic Pastoral and Moral Theology**

**IS 603 – Counseling Theory, Methodology, Assessment**

**IS 604 – Intercultural Communication and Competence**

IS 605 – Marriage and Family Counseling

IS 606 – Youth and Young Adult Mentoring, Coaching, and Counseling

IS 608 – Correctional Counseling: Working with Offenders

IS 609 – Psychology of Trauma

IS 611 – Islamic Bioethics, End of Life Decisions and Hospital/ Hospice Care

**IS 615 – The Fiqh of Islamic Ritual Practices**

**IS 616 – The Fiqh of the Muslim Life Cycle**

IS 619 – Interfaith Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care

IS 620 – Mosque/Muslim Non-Profit Organization and Management

### **Additional Program Requirements: Formation and “Candidacy Status”**

The MDiv program includes the very important element of formation as part of a more holistic evaluation of a candidate's readiness for spiritual care and religious leadership. This is a standard feature in Divinity programs across North America. In other words, students are required to be in regular contact with their MDiv advisor for academic advising and spiritual direction and integration of their studies and experiential education. MDiv students must meet with their advisor/director at least three times per semester.

These meetings help assess the student's readiness for the complex demands of the spiritual care/religious leadership/ chaplaincy role and also provide an opportunity for a more complete integration of his/her studies and fieldwork. The advisor's assessment serves as part of a larger, program-wide assessment of the student's readiness for “Candidacy Status” – a program requirement that is independent of academic credit hours.

# MASTER OF DIVINITY IN ISLAMIC STUDIES (MDiv)

## Candidacy Status

After the MDiv student has completed the first section of MDiv specific study in his/her third year, the MDiv Advisor, together with the other MDiv faculty, will award “Candidacy Status” to the student if he/she is deemed to have

- met the requirements and standards of outlined objectives;
- completed coursework satisfactorily;
- maintained ‘good standing’ in academic coursework;
- achieved a positive recommendation from internship supervisor;
- demonstrated the maturity and overall readiness (emotional, spiritual, legal, and theological) for chaplaincy work and spiritual care.

Once “Candidacy Status” is achieved, the student is able to continue and complete the MDiv program with the continuing support of the MDiv advisor, in consultation with the other participating MDiv faculty. If a student is not deemed to be ready for the completion of the MDiv program, he/she can nevertheless be released with the MA in Islamic Studies (Theology concentration) in recognition of his/her fulfillment of those program requirements en route to the MDiv. This promises a just and constructive outcome for students who are deemed not ready for the psychological and emotional challenges of spiritual care and religious leadership.

## MDiv COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### ENG 500 – Academic Writing and Research Methods 3 credits

Designed for students who do not have a strong background in Humanities research and academic writing, this special course serves to teach graduate students to conduct research and write research-based, academic essays in AIC’s graduate program. Personalized instruction sessions for each student will also be part of this course. While it may be required of selected graduate students, this class is deemed to be additional to the core requirements for the MA and MDiv degrees and so is not counted toward the overall credit hours required for these degrees.

### IS 600 – Intro to Clinical Pastoral Education 3 credits

This course serves as a theoretical and experiential introduction to Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) – an experience-based

approach to learning practical skills and developing competencies for spiritual care. It thus combines academic study with qualified supervision, group reflection, and experiential / “hands on” exposure to a variety of spiritual and pastoral care settings. Students will be challenged to develop a practice of self-reflection and empathic dialogue as they encounter patients, staff, and fellow students. Students will be challenged to work sensitively within the world view of the patient/client and assist her/him to express and interpret the experience of illness or trauma or loss in accordance with the patient’s own religious beliefs and spiritual values.

### IS 601 – Spiritual Care/Leadership/Chaplaincy Training Practicum 3 credits

This course marks a more sustained exposure to theories or core environments introduced in the IS 600. Students will be placed in a supervised field placement (or series of placements) and work under the direct supervision of an experienced imam, counsellor, social worker, chaplain, or spiritual caregiver. Placements are determined in consultation with the student, the advisor, and the supervising practitioner in the field. (400 hour internship)

### IS 602 – Islamic Pastoral & Moral Theology 3 credits

This course opens new theological horizons for the MDiv student as it explores theologies of service, suffering, healing, forgiveness, liberation, reconciliation, transcendence, and transformation within the Qur’anic, prophetic, and spiritual traditions of Islam.

### IS 603 – Counseling Theory, Methodology, Assessment 3 credits

Embracing an active and participatory approach, this course is designed to help MDiv students cultivate basic knowledge and skills in the areas of counseling, psychological assessment, and psychotherapeutic theory and practice. The major modalities covered will include the Psychoanalytic, Neo-analytic, Person-centered, Humanistic and Affective, Behavioral, Cognitive, and Family Systems therapies. Students will be taught culturally and religiously sensitive approaches to intervention strategies for dealing with psychological, emotional, relationship, and adjustment problems.

### IS 604 – Intercultural Communication & Competence 3 credits

This course explores an array of communication systems and formations from different cultures and provides an introduction

to the major principles and theories of interpersonal, intercultural, and international communication, from one on one encounters to the macro-level of mass media. Students are exposed to various ways culture, gender, religion, socio-economic background, and nationality influence the way individuals and communities communicate and so are challenged to apply this to their work in pastoral, spiritual care and religious leadership. The goal of this required core class is to help students examine their own communication styles and assumptions while developing the sensitivity, cultural dexterity, and practiced techniques they will need to be effective communicators and care givers within a multicultural and multi-religious world.

**IS 605 – Marriage & Family Counseling 3 credits**

This course aims at equipping MDiv students with the most essential therapeutic tools and techniques for helping families in such areas as parent-child and family dynamics, mental and nervous disorders within the family, marital and family education, coping with divorce and loss, domestic violence (DV), and sexual dysfunction. Adolescent psychology, counseling theories and strategies (including one-on-one cognitive therapy and group therapy), human growth and development, diverse marriage and family systems, gender identity, sexual orientation, family violence, critical interventions, divorce, and many other topics will be touched on in this course: all infused with and informed by foundational Islamic principles relating to human dignity, mercy, justice, balance, and social responsibility. Students will also become familiar with psychological, religious, community based, and legal tools for providing first-tier assistance for victims of domestic violence as well as for addressing and treating the causes of DV within the home and/or community. To this end, we will explore the nature and definition of domestic violence, the challenge of identifying the victims of DV, the signs of DV within individuals and family dynamics, psychological and religious strategies for intervention and working with victims and perpetrators of DV, how to find professional help and resources for victims of DV, and strategies for breaking the cycle of violence within the home and the community.

**IS 606 – Youth and Young Adult Mentoring, Coaching & Counseling 3 credits**

This course seeks to equip AIC MDiv students with a basic understanding of the unique struggles adolescents face and to help students develop a spiritually informed approach to mentoring, counseling, and coaching youth within a caring, nonjudgmental, and positive context. Students can expect to

develop competencies in the following areas: understanding the major relational, emotional, and behavioral issues faced by adolescents today within an American context; helping adolescents acquire the tools for working with the challenges they face; identifying the critical signs that signal the need for intervention and/or professional referrals; identifying and building up the core qualities and gifts of young people; educating and, if necessary, mediating with parents so that they can better understand the world in which their children are living.

**IS 608 – Correctional Counseling: Working with Offenders 3 credits**

This course helps prepare MDiv students for working with convicted/incarcerated individuals within a religious context of healing and restoration. Special attention is given to techniques for building rapport and opening a sustained conversation that gradually moves toward the core issues a client faces. Thus, the underlying causes of addiction, violence, and other destructive and delinquent behavioral patterns are explored, and religious resources for forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration (individual and community) are studied. Additional topics include working within a correctional environment, understanding the criminal justice system within the US, strategies for coping in stress and crisis situations, unique challenges for female and male clients within a correctional setting, and strategies for living a restored life beyond incarceration.

**IS 609 – Psychology of Trauma 3 credits**

This course introduces MDiv students to the psychology of trauma, explored in several varieties and from a range of psychotherapeutic approaches. Topics considered include the types of trauma, including sexual trauma, PTSD, and disaster trauma, the identification of trauma symptoms, trauma-related defenses and dissociative states, personality disorders, individual and group approaches to trauma therapy, such as interventional debriefing, and community resources for referral. Students will be challenged to develop an Islamic pastoral theology of trauma in conversation with the knowledge and psycho-therapeutic approaches learned in this course.

**IS 611 – Islamic Bioethics, End of Life Decisions & Hospital/Hospice Care 3 credits**

This course explores the emerging field of Islamic bioethics, along with the legal, ethical, and pastoral dimensions of caring for individuals and families facing end-of-life decisions. Topics addressed include the range of Muslim attitudes toward health

# MASTER OF DIVINITY IN ISLAMIC STUDIES (MDiv)

care in America, Muslim health care needs and accommodations, major topics in bioethics, the goals of hospice care, counseling techniques and strategies for the critically ill, the dying, and their loved ones, helping individuals and families come to a religiously-informed understanding of suffering, death, and the afterlife, the ethics of the caregiver relationship, psychological and spiritual practices that help individuals and families cope with serious illness and help prepare the individual for death, the legal dimensions of Muslim funerary practices (wills, funerals, burials), comparative death rituals, and understanding the stages of grief, bereavement, and healing.

## **IS 615 – The Fiqh of Islamic Retual Practices 3 credits**

This course explores the fiqh (legal dimensions) of Muslim religious practices (al-‘ibādāt) and so prepares students to teach, advise, coach, and, if necessary, lead others in the obligatory practices of prayer, fasting, calculating and giving zakat, and performing pilgrimage. Our approach is denominationally inclusive, and so differences between the various legal schools will be noted and discussed in a respectful manner that promotes tolerance and focuses upon “best practices” within each tradition.

## **IS 616 – The Fiqh of The Muslim Life Cycle 3 credits**

This course examines the major milestones of the Muslim lifecycle and prepares the student to care for individuals and families as well as preside over appropriate rituals from birth to death. Our approach is denominationally inclusive, and so differences between the various legal schools will be noted and discussed in a respectful manner that focuses upon “best practices” within each tradition.

## **IS 619 – Interfaith Chaplaincy & Spiritual Care 3 credits**

Chaplains, spiritual caregivers, and pastoral human beings are often faced with the challenge of caring for individuals of other faith traditions, and so this course helps MDiv students develop strategies and competencies for offering empathic and spiritually-infused care to clients who inhabit other belief systems or no belief system. Interfaith chaplaincy or counseling is thus understood to be a kind of companionship that helps individuals find transcendence and illumination within their particular situation and name that transcendence or illumination in their own language. As part of this course, then, we will explore spiritual experience from interreligious and cross-cultural perspectives, and we will study and practice contemplative listening, formless prayer, and the ministry of presence.

## **IS 620 – Mosque / Muslim Non-Profit Organization & Management 3 credits**

Students aspiring to lead Muslim congregations or run nonprofits learn to create and manage a budget, develop business plans, create marketing and public relations strategies, institute responsible human resources/personnel policies, and build effective teams across the lay – leadership divide. Other topics touched upon include nonprofit law, governance and accountability.



**DR. SHABANA MIR**  
**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY**  
**GENERAL ED. COORDINATOR**

# FACULTY



Dr. Shabana Mir, General Education Coordinator and Associate Professor of Anthropology (full-time)

- Ph.D. in Education Policy Studies, Indiana University-Bloomington Teaches courses in Anthropology, Islam and Gender, Comparative and International Education



Dr. Omer Awass, Assistant Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies (full-time)

- Ph.D. in Religion, Temple University
- Teaches courses in Islamic legal theory and application (medieval – modern); Qur’anic Studies; Hadith Studies; Islamic Intellectual History; and Classical Arabic Language and Literature



Dr. Feryal Salem, Associate Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies; Director, Master of Divinity in Islamic Studies and Muslim Chaplaincy Program (full-time)

- Ph.D. in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago
- Teaches Readings in Sufi Texts, Themes in Critical Theory and Islamic Thought, and Muslim Devotional Law: Fiqh of Worship



Dr. Talaat Pasha, Director of Arabic Language Institute and Assistant Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies (full-time)

- Ph.D. in Arabic and Linguistics, Middle East Studies, University of Utah
- Teaches Elementary, Intermediate, and Advanced Arabic

# ADMINISTRATION



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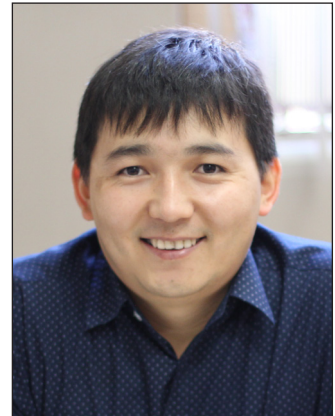
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# ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2019-2020

## FALL SEMESTER 2019

August 23	Last Day of Registration/Orientation
August 26	First Day of Classes
September 2	Labor Day
September 3	Classes Resume
September 12	Last Day to Drop/Add Courses
September 13	<b>Deadline for thesis topic submission</b>
October 5	Last Day for students to submit assignments to change an “I” grade, from the preceding Spring and Summer Semesters; Faculty may set an earlier date
October 7-8	Mid-term Break
October 11	<b>Deadline for first draft of thesis</b>
November 9	Last day to withdraw with a grade of “W.” After this date, the penalty grade of “WF” is assigned   <b>Deadline for final draft of thesis</b>
November 28-29	Thanksgiving
December 2-6	Last Week of Classes
December 9-13	Final Exams

## SPRING SEMESTER 2020

January 10	Last Day of Registration
January 13	First Day of Classes
January 20	Martin Luther King Day
February 1	Last Day to Drop/Add Courses   <b>Deadline for thesis topic submission</b>
February 21	Last Day for students to submit assignments to change an “I” grade, from the preceding Fall Semester;   <b>Deadline for first draft of thesis</b>
March 9-13	Spring Break
March 20	<b>Deadline for final draft of thesis</b>
March 27	Last day to withdraw with a grade of “W.” After this date, the penalty grade of “WF” is assigned
April 20-April 24	Last Week of Classes
April 27-30	Final Exams

\*AIC will be closed for Ramadan, Eid-al-Fitr, and Eid-al-Adha. The Islamic holidays are based on the lunar calendar and will be announced to the students, faculty and staff when confirmed.





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COLLEGE

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