The minor is designed for students interested in the societies, cultures, history, and politics of the Islamic world. It offers students the opportunity to study the many societies that have significant Muslim populations. These societies are not just in the Middle East; they stretch from North Africa to Southeast Asia and beyond, including Europe as well as North America. To fulfill the requirements for the minor, students take a wide variety of courses from a range of departments. These courses provide students with a broad and well-rounded understanding of Islam.

The minor will enhance students’ opportunities for future study and employment, especially in the Washington, D.C. area.

Faculty
Amireh, Bakhash, Butler, Dakake (director), DeCaroli, Haddad, Hamdani, Katz, Lukacs, Mandaville, McGlinchey, Paden, Salawdeh

Policies
Eight credits of coursework must be unique to the minor and students must complete all coursework with a minimum GPA of 2.00. For policies governing all minors, see AP.5.3.4 Minors.

Requirements
Minor Requirements
Total credits: 21

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

Core Courses
GOVT 345 Islam and Politics 3
HIST 281 Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core) 3
RELI 272 Islam 3
Total Credits 9

Foreign Language
Select one course in a foreign language of any country with a significant Muslim population 1
Total Credits 3

Electives
Select three electives from the following: 1 9
ARAB 420 Survey of Arabic Literature
ARAB 440 Topics in Arabic Religious Thought and Texts (Mason Core)
ANTH 308 Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East (Mason Core)
ANTH 309 Peoples and Cultures of India (Mason Core)
ARTH 320 Art of the Islamic World (Mason Core)
ARTH 382 Arts of India (Mason Core)
ARTH 386 The Silk Road (Mason Core)
ENGH 309 Topics in Literature (when topic is Arab and Arab-American writers)
FREN 453 Topics in North African Francophone Literature and Culture
GGS 325 Geography of North Africa and the Middle East
GGS 330 Geography of the Soviet Succession States
GOVT 328 Non-Western Political Theory
GOVT 332 Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa
GOVT 340 Central Asian Politics
HIST 282 Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core)
HIST 462 Women in Islamic Society (Mason Core)
HIST 460 Modern Iran (Mason Core)
HIST 465 The Middle East in the 20th Century
RELI 355 Sufism
RELI 374 Islamic Thought (Mason Core)
RELI 375 Qur’an and Hadith
Total Credits 9

1 Arabic may be used to fulfill this requirement, but other languages of the Islamic world may be substituted with prior written approval of the director. This requirement may be waived for students who can demonstrate proficiency in a relevant foreign language. Contact the college Office of Undergraduate Affairs (http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu). Such students will be required to take 3 additional elective credits.

Special topics courses, when relevant, may be used to fulfill this requirement with prior written approval of the director.