

WORLD ISLAMIC AND MIDDLE EAST STUDIES MAJOR CONCENTRATION (B.A.) (36 CREDITS)

Offered by: Islamic Studies (Faculty of Arts)

Degree: Bachelor of Arts; Bachelor of Arts and Science

Program credit weight: 36

Program Description

World Islamic and Middle East Studies is an interdisciplinary program focusing on Muslim cultures and societies both past and present. Recognizing the variety of approaches within Islam, its global reach, but also its regional specificities, and that of the Middle East in particular, the program aims at providing students with training in the textual traditions and social life of Muslims across different times and places.

For information about instructors and course descriptions, visit the program's website at <http://www.mcgill.ca/islamicstudies/>.

Degree Requirements — B.A. students

To be eligible for a B.A. degree, a student must fulfil all Faculty and program requirements as indicated in Degree Requirements for the Faculty of Arts.

We recommend that students consult an Arts OASIS advisor for degree planning.

Note: For information about Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 course offerings, please check back on May 8, 2025. Until then, the "Terms offered" field will appear blank for most courses while the class schedule is being finalized.

Complementary Courses (36 credits)

12-15 credits (2 levels) in one language: Arabic, Persian, Turkish, or Urdu. In the case of Arabic, the first two levels involve 15 credits. The extra 3 credits will be counted toward the remainder of the complementary courses requirement.

21-24 credits (21 if Introductory Arabic has been chosen), of complementary courses selected from the World Islamic and Middle East Studies course lists as follows:

3 credits of 100-/200-level non-language ISLA courses;

6 credits of 300-level non-language ISLA courses;

6 credits of 400-/500-level non-language ISLA courses;

6-9 credits at any level, including more language courses, but no more than 6 credits overall at the 100/200 level. Students might fulfill these credits by taking complementary courses from other departments listed as relevant to the program.

Languages (12-15 credits)

Arabic

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ISLA 221D1	Introductory Arabic.	4.5
ISLA 221D2	Introductory Arabic.	4.5
ISLA 322	Lower Intermediate Arabic.	6
ISLA 322D1	Lower Intermediate Arabic.	3
ISLA 322D2	Lower Intermediate Arabic.	3
ISLA 423D1	Higher Intermediate Arabic.	3
ISLA 423D2	Higher Intermediate Arabic.	3
ISLA 524	Advanced Arabic 1.	3
ISLA 525	Advanced Arabic 2.	3

Persian

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ISLA 241D1	Introductory Persian.	3
ISLA 241D2	Introductory Persian.	3
ISLA 342D1	Lower Intermediate Persian.	3
ISLA 342D2	Lower Intermediate Persian.	3
ISLA 443D1	Upper Intermediate Persian.	3
ISLA 443D2	Upper Intermediate Persian.	3
ISLA 545	Advanced Persian 1.	3
ISLA 546	Advanced Persian 2.	3

Turkish

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ISLA 232D1	Introductory Turkish.	3
ISLA 232D2	Introductory Turkish.	3
ISLA 333D1	Lower Intermediate Turkish.	3
ISLA 333D2	Lower Intermediate Turkish.	3
ISLA 434D1	Higher Intermediate Turkish.	3
ISLA 434D2	Higher Intermediate Turkish.	3
ISLA 535D1	Advanced Turkish.	3
ISLA 535D2	Advanced Turkish.	3

Urdu

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ISLA 251D1	Introductory Urdu-Hindi.	3
ISLA 251D2	Introductory Urdu-Hindi.	3
ISLA 352D1	Intermediate Urdu-Hindi.	3
ISLA 352D2	Intermediate Urdu-Hindi.	3
ISLA 553	Advanced Urdu-Hindi 1.	3
ISLA 554	Advanced Urdu-Hindi 2.	3

ISLA 100-/200-Level

3 credits from:

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ISLA 199	FYS: Narrations of the Middle East.	3
ISLA 200	Islamic Civilization.	3
ISLA 210	Muslim Societies.	3

ISLA 300-Level

6 credits from:

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ISLA 310	Women in Islam.	3
ISLA 315	Ottoman State and Society to 1839.	3
ISLA 325	Introduction to Shi'i Islam.	3
ISLA 330	Islamic Mysticism: Sufism.	3
ISLA 350	From Tribe to Dynasty.	3
ISLA 355	Modern History of the Middle East.	3
ISLA 360	Islam and Politics in Africa	3
ISLA 370	The Qur'an: History and Interpretation.	3
ISLA 380	Islamic Philosophy and Theology.	3
ISLA 383	Central Questions in Islamic Law.	3
ISLA 385	Poetics and Politics in Arabic Literature.	3
ISLA 388	Persian Literature.	3
ISLA 392	Arabic Literature as World Literature.	3

ISLA 400-/500-Level

6 credits from:

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ISLA 410	History: Middle-East 1798-1918.	3
ISLA 411	History: Middle-East 1918-1945.	3
ISLA 415	Modern Iran: Anthropological Approach.	3
ISLA 420	Indo-Islamic Civilization: Medieval.	3
ISLA 421	Islamic Culture - Indian Subcontinent.	3
ISLA 430	Islamdom: Baghdad to Cordoba .	3
ISLA 488	Tales of Wonder-Islamic World.	3
ISLA 502	Art in the Age of Empires.	3
ISLA 505	Islam: Origin and Early Development.	3
ISLA 506	Revolutions: Arab Middle East and North Africa.	3
ISLA 512	Art of the Ottoman Empire.	3
ISLA 515	The Medieval School in Islam.	3
ISLA 516	Medieval Islam, 13th-15th Century.	3
ISLA 526	Colloquial Arabic.	3
ISLA 555	Urdu Poetry.	3
ISLA 585	Arab Women's Literature.	3

6-9 credits at any level, including ISLA 499 World Islamic and Middle East Studies Internship., or more language courses (from the language lists above), but no more than 6 credits overall at the 100/200 level. Students might fulfill these credits by taking complementary courses from other departments listed as relevant to the program.

Non-ISLA Courses

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Course	Title	Credits
ANTH 327	Anthropology of South Asia.	3
HIST 240	Modern History of Islamic Movements.	3
HIST 341	Themes in South Asian History.	3
HIST 435	Topics in South Asian History.	3
HIST 591D1	Modern Middle East History.	3
HIST 591D2	Modern Middle East History.	3
JWST 220D1	Introductory Hebrew.	3
JWST 220D2	Introductory Hebrew.	3
JWST 261	History of Jewish Philosophy and Thought.	3
JWST 320D1	Intermediate Hebrew.	3
JWST 320D2	Intermediate Hebrew.	3
JWST 323	The Israeli Novel.	3
JWST 338	Jewish Philosophy and Thought 2.	3
JWST 340D1	Advanced Hebrew.	3
JWST 340D2	Advanced Hebrew.	3
JWST 366	History of Zionism.	3
JWST 367	Hebrew through Israeli Cinema.	3
JWST 368	A Taste of Hebrew Literature.	3
JWST 369	History of the Hebrew Language.	3
JWST 370	Israeli Popular Culture.	3
PHIL 356	Early Medieval Philosophy.	3
POLI 340	Comparative Politics of the Middle East.	3
POLI 341	Foreign Policy: The Middle East.	3
POLI 347	Arab-Israel Conflict, Crisis, Peace.	3
RELG 204	Judaism, Christianity and Islam.	3
RELG 307	Bible, Quran and Interpretations.	3
RELG 309	World Religions and Cultures They Create..	3
RELG 573	Religions in Global Society.	3