ISLAMIC CIVILIZATIONS STUDIES

Degrees Offered

- PhD

Degree Requirements

- **Coursework**: Students are required to complete a minimum of 45 credit hours of course work in a program of study determined in consultation with the student’s advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS). These credit hours include 15 hours of Core courses and 18 hours of Electives. At least one 3-credit Elective course must be taken outside the ICIVS program in an external field related to the student’s program of study and in consultation with the advisor. The remaining 12 credit hours include qualifying exam preparation and dissertation research. Core courses are designed to prepare students in the research methods, pedagogy, historiography and methodology of Islamic Civilizations Studies as an academic field.

  Core courses include:
  - ICIVS 505 Islamic Civilizations Studies Pedagogy Seminar (3 credits)
  - ICIVS 510 Orientation and Research Methods (3 credits)
  - ICIVS 710 Historiography and the Study of Islam (3 credits)
  - ICIVS 720 Islamic Civilizations Studies (3 credits)
  - ICIVS 735R Advanced Language Studies in Arabic, Persian, Urdu, or Judeo-Arabic (3 credits)

- **Programs of Study**: Individual programs of study will vary significantly in content across the field of Islamic Civilizations Studies. Possible programs of study may include (but are not limited to): Islam in the Mediterranean or Indian Ocean Basins, Muslim and Jewish Iberia and North Africa, Classical/Modern Islamic Literatures, Judeo-Arabic Language, Linguistics, and Literatures, Mysticism and Society in the Islamic World, Islamic Political Philosophy, Muslim and Non-Muslim Minorities in Muslim Societies (with an emphasis on relationships with Christian, Jewish and Hindu populations), Muslim Minorities in Non-Muslim Societies, Islamic Hybridities, Gender and Society in the Islamic World, and Frontier Interactions Between States and Peoples in the Islamic World. Students in the program design their own programs of study in consultation with their advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies.

- **Language Study**: Students entering the ICIVS program must have a minimum Intermediate proficiency in at least one Islamic language taught at Emory (currently Arabic, Judeo-Arabic, Persian, and Urdu). Students must achieve a level of ACTFL Advanced-Plus proficiency in their language by the conclusion of the sixth semester of study. Most students will take 3-4 language courses during their first two years, including summer language study in the US or overseas. Students who enter the ICIVS program with ACTFL Advanced-Plus proficiency in an Islamic language may be exempted from taking language courses upon the approval of their advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies. Every student must take at least one course of ICIVS 735R, Advanced Language Studies, (currently Arabic, Persian, Urdu, or Judeo-Arabic) before the Qualifying Exam.

  - ICIVS students are also required to qualify at reading level in 2 additional research languages relevant to their course of study. These may include both European and non-European languages, to be determined by their advisor and approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. Students are required to pass a reading exam in these languages. The reading exam will be a translation exam of 2-3 pages in length taken from a journal article or monograph in the student’s field of study. The reading exam will be graded on a pass-fail basis.

- **Teaching**: All students in ICIVS must participate in the Teaching Assistant Training and Teaching Opportunity (TATTO) program. The program consists of a three and one-half day course offered by the LGS, ICIVS 505 (ICIVS Pedagogy Seminar), a teaching Assistantship, and a teaching Associateship. TATTO credits plus credit for ICIVS 505 on the student transcript indicate fulfillment of this
requirement. Although academic credit is earned for LGS TATTO courses, TATTO hours do not count toward the total number of credits required for the degree.

Required TATTO courses for the ICIVS program include:

- TATT 600 Teaching Assistant Training
- ICIVS 505 ICIVS Pedagogy Seminar
- TATT 605 Teaching Assistantship
- TATT 610 Teaching Associateship

**Program for Scholarly Integrity:** All students in ICIVS must participate in the Program for Scholarly Integrity (PSI). The PSI program is required for all Laney Graduate School students and provides them with a foundational, cross-disciplinary introduction to ethics for their research, training and careers.

The program consists of PSI 600, a 6-hour course in scholarly integrity, at least 6 hours of program-based ethics content included in ICIVS 510 (research ethics) and ICIVS 505 (pedagogical ethics), and 4 sessions of PSI 610, which consists of workshops, training sessions, and lectures on academic ethics. The Registrar notes participation in PSI 600 and PSI 610 on transcripts, which document fulfillment of the degree requirement. Neither PSI 600 nor PSI 610 count towards the total credit hours required for the PhD. In addition, credit for ICIVS 505 and ICIVS 510 on the student transcript indicate fulfillment of the ICIVS program-based ethics content component.

Required PSI courses for the ICIVS program include:

- PSI 600
- ICIVS 510 Orientation and Research Methods
- ICIVS 505 ICIVS Pedagogy Seminar
- PSI 610

**Qualifying Examination:** Upon completion of all required course work, students must sit for the Qualifying Examination. By the fifth semester of study students must form an exam committee of 3-5 faculty members, of whom one must be from outside the ICIVS faculty. During the sixth semester of study, students must register for 6 credit hours of ICIVS 790R: Ph.D. Exam Preparation. The qualifying examination consists of both written and oral exams. Failure on one or more of the written exams requires a repeat of the oral exam as well as of that written exam. Students may retake the oral exam only one additional time.

- Written Qualifying Examinations: These must be in at least 3 areas related to the student’s field of study. Under the leadership of the exam committee chair, the member or members responsible for each field will prepare the written exam questions for the student in that area. Students will have 24 hours to complete each written exam, which will be open-book format. Most exams will offer a choice of questions. The student is expected to construct thoughtful responses and reconsider and revise each answer (answers should include all necessary supporting materials, such as footnotes). The aggregate of student responses to questions on each written exam should be at least 20-25 pages in length. The committee member or members responsible for each field will determine whether the answers to each exam are sufficient for the student to move on to the oral phase of the qualifying examination.
- Oral Qualifying Examination: Upon the consent of the examination committee, the student’s advisor will chair the oral exam, which will last for no more than 90 minutes. At the conclusion of the oral exam, the committee will vote on whether the student’s responses to the written exams and the oral exam are adequate to pass the student on to the prospectus-writing stage. In case the vote of the committee is not unanimous, the student’s advisor will make the final decision on passage.

**Grant Proposals:** By the sixth semester of study ICIVS students are required to write grant proposals to support dissertation research. This research will begin after the successful completion of Qualifying Examinations. To prepare them for the grant-writing process, students will be required to attend one of the humanities/social sciences grant-writing workshops sponsored by the Laney Graduate School each academic year. Students must attend one of these workshops before taking their Qualifying Examinations.
• **Dissertation Committee and Prospectus:** After completion of Qualifying Examinations students must form a Dissertation Committee of from 3-5 members. Typically the student’s advisor is the chair of the committee. In the middle of the semester following completion of Qualifying Examinations (no later than the fall semester of the fourth year) students will submit a Dissertation Prospectus. This prospectus is a 20-30 page document with an appended bibliography that explains in detail the proposed thesis topic, the critical instrument chosen to approach the topic, existing scholarship on the topic, and a detailed outline for thesis development. The prospectus is prepared in consultation with the thesis advisor, but it is reviewed and commented on by all members of the committee. The prospectus must be approved by the thesis advisor before the student leaves for dissertation research.
  o Students will take 3-9 hours of ICIVS 798R, Pre-Candidacy Research, while composing their dissertation prospectus. Often this will be taken in conjunction with ICIVS 790R, Qualifying Exam Preparation. Upon approval of their thesis advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies, students may also take 9 credits of ICIVS 798R in the semester following the completion of their Qualifying Examination.

• **Dissertation Research:** Students are encouraged to begin exploring research topics as soon as they enter the program. The faculty advisor will help guide the student in this search. The doctoral dissertation must meet the requirements of the ICIVS program and Laney Graduate School. In particular, the dissertation must demonstrate independent and creative thought in a chosen field of Islamic Civilizations Studies. In general terms, the dissertation must make an actual contribution to existing knowledge or be a fresh and significant critical interpretation of existing knowledge.
  o Students must register for 9 credit hours of ICIVS 799R: Dissertation Research in each semester of their research (typically semesters 7-10 of their course of study).
  o Students needing extra time to write their dissertations will register for 9 hours of ICIVS 999R, Residency Hours.

• **Dissertation Defense:** The Dissertation Defense is an academic exercise open to the general university public. The completed dissertation will be made available for public view one week before the defense. The thesis advisor will chair the defense and the acceptability of the defense will be determined by a vote of all members of the Dissertation Committee. This vote is closed to the public. In case the vote of the committee is not unanimous, a majority of the committee, including the thesis advisor, must agree that the thesis is acceptable for it to pass.

Program Faculty:

**Department of Anthropology**
- Professor Michael Peletz

**Department of Art History**
- Associate Professor Elizabeth Carson Pastan

**Center for Ethics**
- Edward L. Queen, Director of the D. Abbott Turner Program in Ethics and Servant Leadership

**Department of History**
- Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor Gyanendra Pandey
- Associate Professor Matthew Payne

**Graduate Institute of Liberal Arts**
- Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Interdisciplinary Humanities and ILA Chair Kevin Corrigan
School of Law
- Charles Howard Candler Professor Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na’im
- Alonzo L. McDonald Distinguished Professor and Director, Center for the Study of Law and Religion
  John Witte Jr.

Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies
- Asa Griggs Candler Professor and Department Chair Vincent J. Cornell
- Winship Distinguished Research Professor and Director of the Program in Linguistics Benjamin Hary
- Associate Professor Scott Kugle
- Associate Professor Ruby Lal
- Associate Professor Roxani Margariti
- Goodrich C. White Professor Gordon D. Newby
- Associate Professor Devin Stewart (ICIVS DGS)

Department of Political Science
- Associate Professor Carrie R. Wickham

Department of Religion
- Jay and Leslie Cohen Professor David R. Blumenthal
- Professor Joyce Burkhalter Flueckiger
- Assistant Professor James B. Hoesterey

Department of Russian and East Asian Languages and Cultures
- Associate Professor and Department Chair Juliette Renee Stapanian Apkarian

Department of Spanish and Portuguese
- Professor María Mercedes Carrión

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