

2018 Summer Global Leadership Seminar

Islam, Politics, and Change in the Middle East
Monday, July 9 – Friday, July 13, 2018

Monday, July 9

- 9:00 – 9:30 a.m.** **Welcome Breakfast, Introduction and Icebreakers**
Welcome by World Affairs Council of Philadelphia staff, followed by student introductions and a team building activity.
- 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.** **Activity – Exploring Islam, North Africa and The Middle East**
Group activities covering topics on contemporary and historical Islam as well as the geography of the Middle East and North Africa.
- 10:30 – 10:45 a.m.** **Break**
- 10:45 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.** **Expert Speaker Briefing – Islam: Exploring the Faith and Religious Identity of the World's Second-Largest Religion**
Raha Rafii, Ph.D. Candidate, Dept. of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Pennsylvania.
- The discussion will begin with a conversation on the stereotypes and common misperceptions of Islam and its role in the region, and beyond. The Expert-facilitated discussion will also focus on the fundamental tenets of Islam, the second-largest religion in the world. Topics will include: The Five Pillars of Islam, Islamic Law, and Sunni/Shia divide, as well as the historic, cultural, and social impact the religion has had on the Middle East.
- 11:45 – 12:00 p.m.** **Wrap-up**
Opportunity for questions and group reflection on the day's topics.

Tuesday, July 10

- 9:00 – 9:10 a.m.** **Opening**
Opening and preview of the day.
- 9:10 – 10:10 a.m.** **Expert Speaker Briefing – From the Iranian Revolution and Salafism, to Moderates in Tunisia and the Muslim Brotherhood: The Many Faces of Political Islam in the Middle East.**
Robert Vigar, PhD Candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, and a Graduate Affiliate of the Penn Cultural Heritage Center.

Expert-facilitated discussion focusing on the diverse groups and movements that have emerged in the Middle East since the late 20th century with their political agendas, goals, and activities organized in the name of Islam.

10:10 – 10:20 a.m.

Break

10:25 – 11:15 a.m.

Activity – *How Were the Modern Nation-States of the Middle East Created?*

Robert Vigar, *PhD Candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, and a Graduate Affiliate of the Penn Cultural Heritage Center.*

Group activity centered on how the political map of the Middle East, as we know it today, has been shaped by events following World War I through the present day.

11:15 a.m. –

12:15 p.m.

Expert Speaker Briefing – *How Has Political Islam Fared Since the Arab Spring?*

Robert Vigar, *PhD Candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, and a Graduate Affiliate of the Penn Cultural Heritage Center.*

Expert-facilitated discussion on the current state of mainstream Islamist movements that have risen to prominence after the democratic openings of the Arab Spring in 2011. This session will highlight the relationship between political Islam and liberal democracy, and how these movements have handled the opportunity and challenge of governance.

12:15 – 12:30 p.m.

Wrap-up

Opportunity for questions and group reflection on the day's topics.

Wednesday, July 11

9:00 – 9:10 a.m.

Opening

Opening and preview of the day.

9:10 – 10:15 a.m.

Expert Speaker Briefing – *A Clash of Civilizations? Political Islam's Relationship with the West*

Victoria Gilbert, *PhD Candidate in Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania*

Expert-facilitated discussion exploring how the rise of political Islam in the Middle East has changed regional dynamics and relations with the West. This session will highlight how Europe, Israel, and the United States have reacted to the rise of political Islamic movements, as well as who has gained and lost influence in the region.

10:15 – 10:20 a.m.

Break

10:20 a.m. –

12:15 p.m.

Debate

Formal debate centered on the following question:

"Is political Islam compatible with democracy?"

12:15 – 12:30 p.m.

Wrap-up

Opportunity for questions, group reflection on the day's topics, and logistics for crisis simulation.

12:30 – 2:30pm

Optional Event – Visit to the Al-Aqsa Islamic Society and Mosque

1502 Germantown Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19122

Travel with the World Affairs Council Education Staff to the Al-Aqsa Mosque for a tour and briefing with Principal Abdur Rahman. Topics will include Philadelphia's history with Islam, contemporary local communities of Islam and Mr. Rahman's work in community development. Before the tour, our group will eat at a market associated with the school and mosque, with more details to follow. We will return to the World Affairs Council offices following the visit for pick-up or public transportation.

Thursday, July 12

9:00 – 9:10 a.m.

Opening

Opening and preview of the day

**9:10 a.m. –
12:15 p.m.**

Crisis Simulation – Using online resources, one-on-one negotiation skills, and a newly acquired understanding of the challenges and disagreements presented by the rise of political Islam in the Middle East, students work together, seeking solutions to an unfolding crisis centered on an emergent issue in the Middle East. This simulation will be modeled on an emergency meeting of the Arab League.

12:15 – 12:30 p.m.

Wrap-up

Opportunity for questions and group reflection on the day's topics and review of logistics for the trip to Washington, D.C..

Friday, July 13 • Trip to Washington, D.C.

Trip Schedule

7:00 a.m.

Departure from Philadelphia

World Affairs Council of Philadelphia
One South Broad Street, Philadelphia PA, 19107

10:00 a.m.

Arrival in Washington, D.C.

10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Briefing with Shadi Hamid, Brookings Institution

1775 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Senior Fellow, Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World in the Center for Middle East Policy

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

Lunch at Ankara,

1320 19th St NW, Washington, DC 20036

1:55 – 3:00 p.m.

Briefing at Embassy of the Republic of Tunisia to the U.S.

1515 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Ms. Amel Ben Younes, Minister Plenipotentiary

3:15 p.m.

Departure from Washington, D.C.

Embassy of the Republic of Tunisia
1515 Massachusetts Ave. NW

7:00 p.m.

Arrival in Philadelphia / Parent Pick-up

World Affairs Council of Philadelphia
One South Broad Street, Philadelphia PA, 19107