The World Affairs Council of Philadelphia is a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational organization dedicated to informing and engaging people of all ages on matters of national and international significance. The Council’s top educational goal is to develop core global competencies, including: (1) expanding students’ knowledge of world geography, cultures, economics and international affairs; (2) increasing students’ ability to understand and recognize emerging transnational issues from a range of perspectives; (3) helping students develop the critical thinking, problem solving and leadership skills needed to succeed in a competitive global economy; and (4) enhancing students’ opportunities to work creatively and collaboratively across

2018-19 High School Membership

High school membership entitles all students and faculty of a participating high school to take part in the Council’s annual global education programming (e.g., International Student Summit, Global Economic Forum, Welcome Back Reception, etc.). High School members also enjoy access to resources and special events (Career Night, Study Abroad) and ongoing briefing events for student and teachers. Registration for the 2018-2019 academic year will open for your high school in August 2018.

Additionally, high school membership with the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia offers faculty and students unparalleled access to influential leaders and policymakers in the global arena. Through the Council’s signature Speaker Events, students have the opportunity to listen to and pose questions of some of the leading public figures and scholars on the world stage today. Last year, students had the opportunity to hear from General Michael Hayden, former President of Mexico Vicente Fox, and former U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 – 9:45 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Welcome Breakfast, Introduction and Icebreakers</strong>&lt;br&gt;World Affairs Council of Philadelphia staff introduces the meeting and icebreakers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45 – 10:45 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Activity – Exploring Islam, North Africa and the Middle East</strong>&lt;br&gt;Group activities covering topics on contemporary and historical Islam as well as the geography of the Middle East and North Africa.</td>
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<td>10:45 – 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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<td>11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Expert Speaker Briefing – Islam: Exploring the Faith and Religious Identity of the World’s Second-Largest Religion</strong>&lt;br&gt;Raha Rafii, Ph.D. Candidate, Dept. of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Pennsylvania.&lt;br&gt;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. 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.</td>
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<td>12:15 – 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Wrap-up</strong>&lt;br&gt;Opportunity for questions and group reflection on the day's topics.</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday, July 10</strong></td>
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<td>9:00 – 9:10 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Opening</strong>&lt;br&gt;Opening and preview of the day.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:10 – 10:10 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>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</strong>&lt;br&gt;Robert Vigar, Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, and a Graduate Affiliate of the Penn Cultural Heritage Center.&lt;br&gt;Expert-facilitated discussion focusing on the diverse groups and movements that have emerged in the Middle East since the late 20th century, including their political agendas, goals, and activities organized in the name of Islam.</td>
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<td>10:10 – 10:20 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:20 – 11:15 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Activity – How Were the Modern Nation-States of the Middle East Created?</strong>&lt;br&gt;Robert Vigar&lt;br&gt;Group activity exploring how the political map of the Middle East has changed following World War I until now.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11:15 a.m. –

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

**Robert Vigar**

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, Ph.D. 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. –

**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 review of logistics for the crisis simulation.

12:30 – 3:00 p.m.

**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. We will return to the World Affairs Council offices following the visit for pick-up or public transportation.

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**Participating Students**

**William Kleeman** — Harriton High School, Harriton, PA

**Santiago Hodge** — Harriton High School, Harriton, PA

**Owen Warden** — Lower Merion High School, Ardmore, PA

**Marshall Lian** — Radnor High School, Radnor, PA

**Bailey Haraburda** — Academy of Notre Dame de Namur, Villanova, PA

**Caterina Fragomeno** — Odyssey Charter School, Wilmington, DE

**Sophia Skorup** — Academy of Notre Dame de Namur, Villanova, PA

**Asiyah Ball** — The Agnes Irwin School, Rosemont, PA

**Tennyson Thomas** — Archbishop Ryan High School, Philadelphia, PA

**Edmund Cayley** — The Haverford School, Haverford, PA

**Jacob Golden** — Souderton High School, Souderton, PA

**Sarah Wagner** — West Chester East High School, West Chester, PA

**Jonathan Lee** — Blair Academy, Blairstown, NJ

**Mahasin Bintuabdulkareemidris** — PA Cyber Charter School, Philadelphia, PA

**Maryam Bintuabdulkareemidris** — PA Cyber Charter School, Philadelphia, PA

**Divya Sood** — North Penn High School, Lansdale, PA

**Benjamin Kessler** — George School, Newton, PA

**Caroline Vogege** — Academy of Notre Dame de Namur, Villanova, PA

**Samuel Tichansky** — Haddonfield Memorial High School, Haddonfield, NJ

**Krystelle Jeremy** — Arts Academy at Benjamin Rush, Philadelphia, PA

**Tamia Beverly-Blair** — Bodine High School for International Affairs, Philadelphia, PA

**Sequoia Dorsey** — Bodine High School for International Affairs, Philadelphia, PA

**Katherine Paulino** — Bodine High School for International Affairs, Philadelphia, PA

**Raheim Al-kaabah** — Bodine High School for International Affairs, Philadelphia, PA

**Jamya Johnson** — Bodine High School for International Affairs, Philadelphia, PA

**Meena Al-Tikriti** — West Chester East High School, West Chester, PA
Site Descriptions

Al-Aqsa Islamic Society and Mosque was established in 1989 in order to allow residents to maintain their Islamic identity and to sustain the Islamic community in Philadelphia. Al-Aqsa hosts a number of women’s and youth groups that regularly participate in community service activities, including interfaith initiatives like the annual Interfaith Peacewalk for Peace and Reconciliation of Philadelphia. Al-Aqsa also helps connect the Muslim and Arab communities of the Greater Philadelphia area with social services through its partnership with the Arab American CDC.

The Brookings Institution is a nonprofit public policy organization based in Washington, D.C. Their mission is to conduct in-depth research that leads to new ideas for solving problems facing society at the local, national and global level. Brookings brings together more than 300 leading experts in government and academia from all over the world who provide the highest quality research, policy recommendations, and analysis on a full range of public policy issues. Research topics include foreign policy, economics, development, governance and metropolitan policy. Brookings is one of the most influential and well-known think tanks in the U.S.

The Embassy of the Republic of Tunisia in Washington, D.C. is an outpost for the Tunisian government to further develop Tunisian-U.S. relations, while also providing services to Tunisians living abroad in the U.S. The embassy can also assist U.S. citizens wishing to travel to or work in Tunisia. Like other embassies, the Embassy of the Republic of Tunisia provides passport and visa services, document legalization, translation services, birth and marriage registration assistance, and more.

Agenda

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 will 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.

7 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
Turkish & Mediterranean Restaurant

1:45 – 3:00 p.m.  Briefing at Embassy of the Republic of Tunisia
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
**Expert Speakers**

Ms. **Raha Rafii** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations department at the University of Pennsylvania, where she focuses on medieval Islamic history and law. She has also received a BS in International Politics from Georgetown University, undertaken language study and research in Syria and Egypt, and received graduate degrees in Islamic and Jewish studies in the UK.

Mr. **Robert Vigar** is an anthropologist whose primary interests are the intersections between cultural heritage, development, and local communities in Egypt. Robbie also researches economic, social and historical perspectives on the trade in illicit antiquities across the Middle East. Robbie undertook his undergraduate and graduate degrees at University College London’s Institute of Archaeology, concentrating on the archaeology of the Middle East and North Africa. Following his higher education, Robbie took up a position at the UK government’s Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism, where he worked for two years before attending the University of Pennsylvania. Robbie is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, and a graduate affiliate of the Penn Cultural Heritage Center.

Ms. **Vicki Gilbert** is a doctoral candidate in political science at the University of Pennsylvania. Her dissertation looks at the impact of the state’s retreat on identity in Syria. More broadly, her work focuses on institutions and identities, particularly during civil conflicts. She received her B.A. in International Relations and Middle Eastern Studies from Tufts University in 2006 and received her M.A. in Political Science from Northeastern University in 2012. Her studies and research have taken her to Yemen, Syria, and Lebanon. When she is not teaching political science she also teaches classes for Penn’s Latin and ballroom dance team.

Mr. **Abdur Rahman** is the Principal of Al-Aqsa Islamic Academy in Philadelphia. He has a B.A., B.D., M.A., and doctoral studies (the latter at Temple University), organized community groups for improvement in North Philadelphia housing and schools, led the protest to rebuild the Lehigh Library on 6th and Lehigh Ave, taught in the Philadelphia School District for 30 years, served as a union rep for the school and has an enduring passion to see Philadelphia’s children succeed.

Mr. **Shadi Hamid** is a senior fellow in the Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World in the Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution in Washington D.C. He is the author of "Islamic Exceptionalism: How the Struggle Over Islam is Reshaping the World" (St. Martin’s Press), which was shortlisted for the 2017 Lionel Gelber Prize. He is also co-editor with Will McCants of “Rethinking Political Islam” (Oxford University Press) and co-author of “Militants, Criminals, and Warlords: The Challenge of Local Governance in an Age of Disorder” (Brookings Institution Press). His first book “Temptations of Power: Islamists and Illiberal Democracy in a New Middle East” (Oxford University Press) was named a Foreign Affairs "Best Book of 2014." Hamid served as director of research at the Brookings Doha Center until January 2014. Hamid is also a contributing editor at The Atlantic and vice-chair of the Project on Middle East Democracy’s board of directors.