**Independent Study, Islamic Finance Project**

**Professor Strang**

3 credits

The Islamic Finance Project is a study of various newspaper and academic articles, and press releases appearing in the Web of Science and Thomson Reuters databases since 1950s. We have been collecting texts that pertain to issues and concepts of Islamic finance (e.g. Islamic banking, sukuk, Islamic insurance) and analyzing how the idea of this alternative economic system evolved over time.

The work consists of extracting and coding information from texts, including recognition of various entities (e.g. people, organizations, locations) in preparation of statistical analysis for classification and description of Islamic finance. The texts will further be used to detect and analyze networks among entities that appear within the texts. At the end of the semester students will write a paper/Jupyter notebook reflecting on/illustrating the patterns of Islamic finance evolution and the drivers of any change in such patterns.

Students should commit an amount of time similar to other courses at Cornell (a credit hour is equivalent to 3 hours of work, so 9 hours work time). We will meet regularly on an individual or group basis to go over procedures and deal with difficulties (1/2 hour to hour of supervision, on average, per week). Previous experience with sociological or archival research is beneficial but not a requirement; most important is interest, ability to work carefully, and readiness to learn.

Interested students should contact David Strang at [ds20@cornell.edu](mailto:ds20@cornell.edu). Please send a short statement of interest and if possible a copy of your transcript or equivalent; also mention the name of your academic/major advisor.

Once you have contacted Professor Strang and if everything is good to go on your end as well as his, you should fill out an online application; look for the link “data.arts” on this page: <https://as.cornell.edu/undergraduate-research>