

The Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud Center for American Studies and Research (CASAR)

Director: Lubin, Alex

CASAR aims to promote dialogue about issues in American studies through teaching, research, and outreach. The center offers a minor in American studies and sponsors conferences, seminars, and public lectures. It also promotes research activities particularly in the area of American encounters with the Middle East.

Students pursuing CASAR's minor in American Studies are required to complete a minimum of 15 credit hours. All CASAR students are required to take the core course, AMST 215, in addition to one course from AMST 220, 230, 265/266, 298, HIST 200, 271, 272, 273, 274, 278/279, PSPA 251; SOAN 215 plus one course from AMST 275/276, 299, CVSP 260AM, ENGL 201, 224, 225, 226; plus two additional courses chosen from any of the above or from the following (with the stipulation that no more than one from this list may be counted): ARCH 023, CVSP 208E, ENGL 215, 216, 218, 219, 222, 241, 242, PHIL 249, 263A, PSPA 234, 237. All AMST courses carry humanities credit except AMST 265/266 and AMST 298.

Courses Offered

AMST 215 **Introduction to American Studies** **3.0; 3 cr.**
This course begins with the question: What is America? Its approach is to explore the complex encounters that have shaped the cultures of the United States, beginning with the colonial juxtaposition of Europeans, Native Americans, and Africans. Subsequent encounters with Latinos, Asians, and Arabs reveal the connections between foreign and domestic concerns. Cultural fictions and cultural exclusions have helped to sustain unity among many Americans, but sub-national and transnational identities call this into question. *Annually. Equivalent to HIST 278/279.*

- AMST 220 Shock of Modernity in America 3.0; 3 cr.**
Examines how Americans dealt with the first onslaught of commercial capitalism, industrial technology, and new modes of communication in the decades before the Civil War. A surge of nationalism and social tension fueled an orgy of expansion that created a continental super-state. The wrenching economic, social, and cultural changes of this era continue to resonate in the United States and in societies confronting modernity today. *Annually.*
- AMST 230 Cultural Geography of North America 3.0; 3 cr.**
An examination of the geography of cultures in the United States and Canada through multiple frameworks including regions, languages, religions, ethnicity, and gender. This course explores the roots and implications of these cultural patterns and considers cultural dynamics at several scales: the household, the city, the region, the nation, and the continent. It also investigates the economic and industrial evolution of cities and regions, the dynamics of public versus private space, the effects of mobility, the dynamics of border zones, diasporic communities, and globalization. *Annually. Equivalent to HIST 278/279.*
- AMST 240 America in the Middle East/The Middle East in America 3.0; 3 cr.**
This course historicizes contemporary United States military and economic involvement in the Middle East by considering the cultural history of U.S./Middle East relations from the mid-19th century to the present. An emergent area of transnational study within American Studies, studies of U.S./Middle East cultural relations are focused on policy, economic, cultural, and affective dimensions. Students will engage the field by analyzing primary documents, reading literature, and viewing visual and popular culture. *Annually. No prerequisites.*
- AMST 265/266 Special Topics in American Society 3.0; 3 cr.**
A term-specific interdisciplinary course focusing on some aspect of American society. *May be repeated for credit. This course carries social science credit. Offered occasionally.*
- AMST 275/276 Special Topics in American Humanities 3.0; 3 cr.**
A term-specific interdisciplinary course focusing on some aspect of American arts. *May be repeated for credit. This course carries humanities credit. Offered occasionally.*
- AMST 298 Tutorial in American Society 3.0; 3 cr.**
A tutorial course offered to seniors completing the minor in American Studies who have an overall average of at least 80 and at least an 85 in the minor courses. This tutorial consists of independent research or directed reading in some aspect of American society, and includes the preparation of a report or thesis on the work. *This course can be taken for 3 or 6 credits. This course carries social science credit. Offered on request.*
- AMST 299 Tutorial in American Humanities 3.0; 3 cr.**
A tutorial course offered to seniors completing the minor in American Studies who have an overall average of at least 80 and at least an 85 in the minor courses. This tutorial consists of independent research or directed reading in some aspect of American arts and includes the preparation of a report or thesis on the work. *This course can be taken for 3 or 6 credits. Offered on request.*