

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

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Director:	Myers, Robert
Program Coordinator and Instructor of American Studies:	Baghdadi, Rana

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*Note: The MA Program is frozen. Please contact CASAR faculty for more details.*

## MA in Transnational American Studies

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The Center for American Studies and Research offers a Master of Arts in Transnational American Studies. We conceive of transnational American Studies in terms of the cultural, political and social relations between, among and across the Americas and the Middle East/North Africa region. CASAR's goals are to increase understanding of the interdependencies between America and the MENA region, as well as to understand how culture and U.S. geopolitical power circulate beyond American borders. The MA program aims to assist students in acquiring an academic grounding in the theories and methods of the discipline of American Studies, as well as to foster transnational scholarship at the intersections of interdisciplinary American and MENA Studies. The MA program is interdisciplinary: CASAR offers seminars in transnational American Studies, and students also draw on faculty expertise in other departments for elective course offerings and thesis advising. To complement students' coursework and promote scholarship related to transnational American Studies at AUB, the Center sponsors conferences, lectures and other events.

Students structure their own course of study by specializing in areas such as Arab and Middle East Studies, contemporary politics, international relations, history, anthropology, sociology, fine arts, media studies or literary studies. The courses and thesis or project requirements offer students the opportunity to engage in critical, independent thinking and to undertake in-depth research.

Admission to the MA in Transnational American Studies is restricted to the fall term.

All students are required to take three Transnational American Studies core courses: AMST 300, AMST 301 and AMST 302.

The MA in Transnational American Studies offers a thesis option and a project option. Students are strongly encouraged to select the project option.

## Project Option

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Students following the project option are required to complete a minimum of 27 credit hours in courses numbered 300 and above, as well as a 3-credit project. In addition, students will choose electives in consultation with the director of the program. No more than 3 credits of the program of study can be in Arabic language study, unless the student petitions to include additional Arabic credits in her/his program of study.

## Thesis Option

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Students following the thesis option are required to complete a minimum of 21 credit hours in courses numbered 300 and above, as well as a 9-credit thesis. In addition, students will choose electives in consultation with the director of CASAR. No more than 3 credits can be in Arabic, unless the student petitions to include additional Arabic credits in her/his program of study.

The MA in Transnational American Studies is currently frozen.

## Course Descriptions

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### **AMST 300**      **Introduction to Transnational American Studies**      **3.0; 3 cr.**

This graduate seminar introduces students (1) to current theories and methods in the field, (2) to the history of American Studies nationally and transnationally and (3) to the participating faculty in the program. It is the required introductory seminar for all Transnational American Studies graduate students and is open only to those who have been accepted into the MA program. During the course of the term, other affiliated American Studies participating faculty members will visit the seminar to introduce themselves and their fields of specialization.

### **AMST 301**      **America in the Middle East**      **3.0; 3 cr.**

Although the United States' encounter with the Middle East may appear to be a relatively recent phenomenon, this course illustrates that America has imagined the Middle East ever since the beginning of North American colonization. Moreover, America has been in the Middle East for a period that extends long before U.S. military and diplomatic presence in the region. In addition to documenting various moments of encounter between America and the Middle East, this course also problematizes the very terms "America" and "Middle East" by introducing each region as a geographic imaginary. In this way, the course first asks what are the borders and limits of "America" and "the Middle East" and how and when are these borders and limits produced? *Prerequisite: AMST 300.*

**AMST 302      Theories and Methods of Transnational American Studies 3.0; 3 cr.**  
 This seminar introduces students to interdisciplinary approaches to the study of transnational American culture and social history. During the term, we will examine the history of American Studies, as well as focus on contemporary scholarship in the field. This course explores the political and social meanings of cultural conflict, national identity, and transnational culture and politics through close analysis and classroom discussion of various research methodologies that employ primary source material such as historical documents, literature, ethnography, and visual and popular culture. We will focus on how ideas about race, gender, sexuality, class, region and nation have shaped contests over the meaning of citizenship and belonging. The seminar will be framed around the following questions: What is distinct about interdisciplinary scholarship? What kinds of questions do American Studies scholars ask and why? What does a comparative and transnational framework require and offer in terms of methodology? *Prerequisite: AMST 301.*

<b>AMST 375</b>	<b>Special Topics in Transnational American Studies</b>	<b>3.0; 3 cr.</b>
<b>AMST 395A</b>	<b>Comprehensive Exam</b>	<b>0 cr.</b>
	<i>Prerequisite: Consent of advisor.</i>	
<b>AMST 397</b>	<b>American Studies Graduate Tutorial</b>	<b>3.0; 3 cr.</b>
<b>AMST 398</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>3 cr.</b>
<b>AMST 399</b>	<b>Thesis</b>	<b>9 cr.</b>