

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

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Professors:	Myers, Robert
Assistant Professors:	
Program Coordinator:	Baghdadi, Rana
CASAR AUB Advisory Committee:	E sanu, Octavian; Halaoui, Lara; Hanafi Sari; Harb, Sirene; Waterman, Adam

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The Center for American Studies and Research (CASAR) aims to promote dialogue about issues in American Studies through research, teaching, 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.

The Center for American Studies and Research (CASAR) works to establish and maintain a world-class locus of activity and exchange of ideas for an interdisciplinary community of researchers, teachers, students and others in the Middle East interested in building further understanding of American institutions and practices (political, social, economic, cultural) and the complex contextual realities in which these institutions and practices have developed and currently exist.

## Minor in American Studies

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American Studies is an interdisciplinary field that critically examines the connections among American literature, arts, culture, religions, economics and politics. The Center for American Studies and Research (CASAR) has a particular interest in encounters between the United States and the Middle East.

Interested students can declare a Minor in American Studies by going to the “Minors” part of the FAS website.

Requirements for a Minor in American Studies, 15 credits (minimum):

- AMST 215 Introduction to American Studies (3 credits)
- One other AMST course (3 credits)
- Three elective courses from other departments with American Studies content or relevance (9 credits total)

## Qualifying Course Options

Core Course (required): AMST 215 Introduction to American Studies

American Studies elective (any one required): AMST 220 Shock of Modernity in America; AMST 230 Cultural Geography of North America; AMST 240 America in the Middle East/Middle East in America; AMST 265/266 Special Topics in American Society (carries Social Science credit); AMST 275/276 Special Topics in American Humanities (carries Humanities credit)

Electives from other departments (at least three courses required\*):

- ARCH 023 Form, Event, Ideology: The American City as Case Study
- ENGL 209 Survey of American Literature
- ENGL 216 Drama
- ENGL 219 Film as Text
- ENGL 222 Literature and Cultural Studies
- ENGL 224 Early American Literature
- ENGL 225 Modern American Literature
- ENGL 226 Contemporary American Literature
- ENGL 241 Transnational Literatures
- HIST 200 Introduction to the History of the United States
- HIST 271 Race, Class, Gender: Introduction to American Social History
- HIST 272 Economic History of the United States
- HIST 273 The United States and the Middle East
- HIST 274 The United States in the Twentieth Century
- HIST 278/279 Special Topics in United States History
- MCOM 201 Intro to Media Studies
- MCOM 204 From Telegraph to Twitter: Media History (formerly 263)
- MCOM 219 Media Depictions of Society (formerly 262)
- MCOM 222 Introduction to Visual Culture Studies
- MCOM 290E On Television
- MEST 315M Making of the Modern Middle East
- PHIL 263A Contemporary Philosophical Movements: American Pragmatism and Its Critics
- PSPA 220 Globalization and Culture
- PSPA 237 The Middle East in International Politics since WWI
- PSPA 251 Politics and Government: United States of America
- PSPA 293 D Senior Seminar in International Politics: US in the Middle East
- SOAN 215 Anthropology of America

In addition, new courses including special topics courses in other departments and programs may occasionally be related to American Studies. Students can petition to apply such a course toward the requirements for the Minor, which must be approved first by the CASAR director and then by the FAS Curriculum Committee.

## Courses

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**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 and the Americas. *Equivalent to HIST 278/279. Annually.*

**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. *Equivalent to HIST 278/279. Annually.*

**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.*

**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. 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. 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.*