ARAB AMERICAN STUDIES

Dearborn and its neighbors are home to one of the largest-and most diverse-communities of people of Arab descent outside of the Middle East. The Center for Arab American Studies at UM-Dearborn encourages students to develop a coherent understanding of the unique circumstances surrounding the incorporation of Arab immigrants into American society; the broad range of diversity found within Arab American communities; how the Arab American experience is shaped by local, national and international conditions; and the contributions of Arab Americans to American culture and history.

Minor or Integrative Studies Concentration Requirements

A minor or concentration requires 15 credit hours of coursework including AAST 3150 or ENGL 238 and 12 additional credits of any 300/400, 3000/4000 level AAST courses. Additionally, the following courses are not cross listed with AAST and also count toward the minor: ENGL 238, ANTH 312, ANTH 373, Soc 4555, ENGL 473, HHS 480. Students will be able to petition to include one additional course toward the minor/concentration with approval of the AAST faculty advisor.

The Arab American Studies (AAST) Certificate is an interdisciplinary undergraduate and post-baccalaureate certificate that prepares students for working and living in our diverse metropolitan region and world by concentrating on the historical and current experiences of Arab and Muslim Americans and the relevance of those experiences for understanding race and ethnicity in the U.S. and globally. The interdisciplinary approach of the certificate provides students with analytical frameworks for understanding how social, cultural, legal, and political factors influence the lives of Arab American individuals, families, and communities. The program of study examines a broad spectrum of diversity to understand the ways that immigration, race, and discrimination, gender and sexuality, class, ethnicity, culture, and religion intersect with one another in people’s lives.

Certificate Requirements

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>12 Credit Hours Required</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 credits from:</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAST 3150 Intro to Arab American Studies</td>
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<td>AAST 3151 Public Cultural Work</td>
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<td>9 credits from:</td>
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<td>AAST 3150 Intro to Arab American Studies</td>
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<td>AAST 3634 History of Islam in the US</td>
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<td>AAST 3676 Arab Americans Since 1890</td>
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<td>AAST 473 Arab American Women Writers</td>
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<td>AAST 4677 Arab American Identity</td>
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<td>AAST 4678 Middle Eastern Diasporas</td>
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<td>ANTH 373 Anth Persp on the Middle East</td>
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<td>HHS 480 Arab American Health</td>
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NOTES:
1. A maximum of 3 credit hours of transfer coursework may be counted toward the minimum 12 credit hours required for the program by Petition to the Program Director.
2. None of the courses applied to the certificate may be taken pass/fail.
3. A minimum 3.0 GPA in the UM-Dearborn courses counting toward the AAST certificate is required at the time of graduation and/or awarding of the certificate.

AAST 238 Intro to Lit: Arab American 3 Credit Hours
This course in an introduction to Arab American literature, its historical and cultural contexts and contemporary relevance. Topics will include the literary and cultural productions of Arab immigrants, their transnational vision, and explorations of such concepts as home, memory and identity; the literary, dramatic and poetic responses of Arab American writers to 9/11 and the ongoing war on terror; the role Arab American literature in offering different versions of Arab and Arab American lives and experiences from the one circulated in mainstream media, Hollywood cinema and culture.

**Prerequisite(s):** COMP 106 or COMP 220 or COMP 270 or COMP 280 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 40 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 107

AAST 267 Arab & Arab American Workshop 3 Credit Hours
The Arab and Arab American Writers Workshop is a creative writing workshop focusing on poetry and fiction. Students will explore Arab American literature, writers, and themes. Students are expected to work on their own manuscripts as well as critique outside readings. The workshop will be conducted under the guidance of Arab American faculty and is open to all students.

**Prerequisite(s):** COMP 106 or COMP 220 or COMP 270 or COMP 280 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 40 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 107

AAST 3150 Intro to Arab American Studies 3 Credit Hours
This course explores the local, national, and global conditions through which Arab American identity and its alternatives take shape. It introduces students to humanistic and social science approaches to the field of Arab American Studies.

**Restriction(s):**
Can enroll if Class is Freshman or Sophomore or Junior or Senior

AAST 3151 Public Cultural Work 3 Credit Hours
Full Title: Public Cultural Work in Arab Detroit. This course explores the field of public humanities work while providing a topical focus on metro-Detroit based Arab American history and culture. Roughly half of the course will be used to explore different approaches to public humanities work undertaken by scholars. The second half of the course will provide the historical and social context for understanding a particular research question to be examined jointly by the instructor, students, and a local cultural institution. Students will engage in intensive research and work with a cultural institution to represent their findings to the public. Students cannot receive credit for both AAST 3151 and HIST 3672. (W)

AAST 3634 History of Islam in the US 3 Credit Hours
This course traces the long history of Islam and of Muslims in the United States (1730s-present), paying careful attention to the interaction among Muslims across the dividing lines of race, gender, immigrant generations, sect, political orientation, and class, and between Muslims and other Americans.

**Restriction(s):**
Can enroll if Class is Freshman or Sophomore or Junior or Senior
AAST 3673  Arabs & Muslims in Media  3 Credit Hours
This course examines how perception of Arabs and Muslims took shape in the U.S. from the late nineteenth century through the present. Using historical developments as a conduit, we explore the treatment of Arabs and Muslims in news outlets, print media, film, and T.V. productions. For example, we analyze the motivation, plot construction, casting, and content of big budget Hollywood movies for patterns of stereotypes and representations/misrepresentations. (AY, F).

AAST 3676  Arab Americans Since 1890  3 Credit Hours
This is a survey of immigration from the Arab Middle East from 1890 to the present. Readings from available scholarship, discussions, and reports facilitate exploring the Arabic-speaking immigrants' early and recent experiences as part of U.S. society, including settlement, work, worship, military service, leisure, intellectual life, and primary and formal affiliations across the U.S.

AAST 373  Anthropology of Middle East  3 Credit Hours
This course explores contemporary life in the Middle East using an anthropological lens. Topics discussed include the geography and diversity of the Middle East; gender, the veil, and Orientalism; Islam, ritual, and everyday family life; and ethics and politics. The course ends with an examination of the Arab immigrant experience in Metro Detroit. No Prerequisites, but ANTH 101 is recommended. (AY)

AAST 381  Intro to Postcolonial Studies  3 Credit Hours
This course offers a general introduction to Postcolonial Studies - a field of cultural inquiry that questions how personal identity (specifically race, language, and ethnicity) shapes, and is shaped by, the politics of colonization and nationalism. Students will clarify the subject of Postcolonial Studies by examining a variety of cultural and linguistic objects (literature, film, TV-journalism, slave- and middle-passage-narrative, and political manifesto) from a variety of cultural perspectives (Arab American, Anglo-Indian, West African, and Caribbean).

Prerequisite(s): (COMP 106 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 40 or COMP 220 or COMP 280 or COMP 270) and ENGL 200 or ENGL 230 or ENGL 231 or ENGL 232 or ENGL 233 or ENGL 235 or ENGL 236 or ENGL 237 or ENGL 239 or ENGL 240 or ENGL 250

AAST 390  Topics in Arab American Study  3 Credit Hours
Examination of various topics dealing with Arab American Studies. Titles will change according to content and schedule of classes. Course may be repeated for credit when specific topic differs. (OC).

AAST 4677  Arab American Identity  3 Credit Hours
Extensive discussions and critical analysis of the main markers of Arab American identity formation from late nineteenth century to present. This seminar provides in-depth assessments of immigrant narratives from various sources and disciplinary approaches on specific racial, ethnic, and gender experiences within the larger U.S. context. Additional assignments distinguish the graduate version of this course from the undergraduate version.

Prerequisite(s): HIST 300

Restriction(s):
Can enroll if Level is Undergraduate

AAST 4677  Middle Eastern Diasporas  3 Credit Hours
This course explores the diasporas of Arabs, Turks, Assyrians, and Iranians living in Europe and the Americas that have occurred since the 1880s. It pays careful attention to how 'aspects of diaspora' shape, mimic, transect, and undermine the political and economic regimes of which they are part. The reception of Middle Eastern communities in different national contexts and historical periods receive special attention as do their adaptive strategies as religious, ethnic, gendered, and racialized minorities. Those enrolled in the graduate level of the course pursue additional readings and assignments.

Prerequisite(s): AAST 3150 or HIST 300

Restriction(s):
Cannot enroll if Class is Freshman or Sophomore

AAST 473  Arab American Women Writers  3 Credit Hours
This course examines the literary and cultural contributions of Arab and Arab American women novelists, poets, filmmakers and artists to the development and consolidation of cultures of understanding and coexistence; explores the relations between, among others, citizenship and belonging, race and national security, gender and geographical mobility, and ethnic minorities and mainstream consciousness; stresses how literary and artistic productions of Arab and Arab American women writers and artists fosters alternative visions of socio-cultural coexistence, dialogue, and hospitality by means of technical and stylistic experimental and renovation. For graduate credit take AAST 573. Students cannot receive credit for both AAST 473 and AAST 573.

Restriction(s):
Cannot enroll if Class is Freshman

AAST 490  Topics in Arab Amer Studies  3 Credit Hours
The content of this course will vary. All courses which will run under this number will cover Arab American issues.