

# ARAB AMERICAN STUDIES (AAST)

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## **AAST 238 Intro to Lit: Arab American 3 Credit Hours**

This course is 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 the 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 and 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 humanities 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 art 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 4678 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.

\* An asterisk denotes that a course may be taken concurrently.

Frequency of Offering

The following abbreviations are used to denote the frequency of offering: (F) fall term; (W) winter term; (S) summer term; (F, W) fall and winter terms; (YR) once a year; (AY) alternating years; (OC) offered occasionally