

For Immediate Release



AUB's Center for American Studies and Research launches new master's program

Beirut, Lebanon- 19/02/2013 - The Center for American Studies and Research (CASAR) at the American University of Beirut has received approval from the State of New York Board of Higher Education to offer an MA in "Transnational American Studies" beginning fall 2013.

Transnational American studies emerged in the wake of the Cold War after it became clear that the newly globalized world order demanded an understanding of American culture from an international perspective.

The MA program marks a significant development for CASAR, which will celebrate its tenth anniversary in the fall of this year. CASAR was founded in order to increase and develop knowledge about the United States within the Arab world. Since its founding in 2003, CASAR has become a nexus of scholarship about the complex and interdependent relationships between the United States and the Middle East/North Africa.

Alex Lubin, who directs CASAR, believes that the new MA program will be an important addition to AUB's growing list of interdisciplinary master's programs. "The MA in Transnational American Studies is truly unique," he said. "The opportunities for transnational scholarship abound at AUB, and CASAR's location at AUB will provide graduate students an unparalleled opportunity to view and study transnational American studies from a vantage point that is both American and non-US."

The program will accept a small cohort of students each fall semester. MA students will take three core courses focused in the theory and methods of transnational American studies and then will select from a broad list of electives in related fields across AUB. MA students will complete their degree with a final project or an MA thesis. The final project is loosely structured to give students the ability to complete a capstone project that best fits their academic and career goals.

"The MA program will actively recruit students from all over the world," noted Lubin. "Admissions will be competitive and based on the applicants' promise of scholarly accomplishment."

Applicants from any undergraduate discipline may apply, although it is most likely that students from disciplines related to American studies, especially those in humanities and social sciences, will be most attracted to the master's program. Accepted students may apply for a graduate assistantship position in the center.

Once admitted to the MA program students will benefit from CASAR's vibrant research activities including its lecture series, conferences, symposia, and courses offered by the visiting Edward Said Chair in American Studies. Moreover, students will be able to participate in a growing consortia of American studies programs globally that will enable graduate students to visit affiliated programs.

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 600 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,000 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full service 420-bed hospital.

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