

For Immediate Release



## Upcoming events at AUB

Beirut, Lebanon- 24/02/2015 - The following activities will be taking place on campus in the following week:

- **New term starts for University For Seniors Spring 2015**

The University for Seniors Spring has published its Spring 2015 program online and can be accessed on [www.aub.edu.lb/seniors](http://www.aub.edu.lb/seniors).

Registration takes place from March 2 to March 6. Classes start on Monday March 16 and end on Monday June 8. Membership fees are \$150 for the whole term. The program includes a variety of courses, lecture series and educational travel programs in Lebanon and abroad.

- **Lecture on institution building and political organization in early independence Lebanon**

The Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies at the American University of Beirut is organizing a lecture entitled, “Beyond Exceptionalism: Institution Building and Political Organization in Early Independence Lebanon,” by Assistant Professor Ziad Abu-Rish of Ohio University.

The lecture will take place on Thursday February 26, 2015 at 5:30 PM, in Auditorium B1, College Hall.

Abu-Rish will narrate and analyze the broad contours of economic development, institution building, and political organization in Lebanon during the decade after independence. He will focus on specific institutional shifts that took place during early independence, in order to reveal the ways in which the first decade of independence featured significant transformations in both the scope and reach of state institutions. He will also highlight the degree of non-elite mobilization, to demonstrate how existing organizations adapted themselves while new organizations announced themselves.

Abu-Rish teaches in the Department of History at Ohio University. His research interests focus on state formation, economic development, and social mobilization in the mid-twentieth-century Levant.

- **Lecture by best-selling author James Bamford on NSA's mass surveillance and cyber warfare in the Middle East**

The Center for American Studies and Research and the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies are organizing a lecture entitled, "Everyone's a Target: NSA's Mass Surveillance and Cyber Warfare in the Middle East," by Foreign Policy magazine columnist and best-selling author James Bamford.

The lecture will take place on March 2, 2015 at 5:30 PM in College Hall, Auditorium B1. In his talk, Bamford will take a close look at NSA's eavesdropping on the Middle East, its long and close partnership with Israel, and the dangers of NSA's growing arsenal of cyber weapons. Much of the talk will be based on Bamford's three days with Ed Snowden in Moscow last summer, the longest any journalist has spent with him.

James Bamford is columnist for Foreign Policy Magazine as well as an American bestselling author, journalist, and documentary producer. He is widely noted for his writing about the United States intelligence agencies, especially the highly secretive National Security Agency. The New York Times has called him "the nation's premier journalist on the subject of the National Security Agency."

ENDS

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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 700 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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