



University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

CENTER FOR  
SOUTH ASIAN &  
MIDDLE EASTERN  
STUDIES

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# OUR MISSION

The Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (CSAMES) promotes research and scholarship in South Asia and the Middle East. CSAMES was designated a National Resource Center (Title VI) 2006-2010, dedicated to the study and teaching of the Middle East, enabling us to further strengthen our commitment to an academic inquiry into a region that is home to some of the world's oldest religions and civilizations. The Center was awarded funding in 2012 and 2014 by the U.S. Department of Education Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language program for strengthening South Asian and Middle Eastern studies on campus.

Housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, CSAMES works closely with more than a dozen departments and affiliated faculty of over eighty members, who bring to the Center their expertise and diverse areas of interest. Some of the disciplines that CSAMES faculty are associated with are contemporary and historical studies of South Asia and the Middle East, and inquiries into such topics as religious and social identities, cultural values, literary expression, urbanization, politics and gender.

## MA program

CSAMES administers the MA program in South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. Students focus on either South Asian Studies or Middle Eastern Studies. The MA program provides basic preparation in language and area training for students intending either to continue in a Ph.D. program in a related discipline or to enter a professional career.

## Minor studies

Apart from the Master's program, CSAMES also offers interdisciplinary minors in South

Asian Studies and in the Study of the Islamic World. These minors are especially suited for students interested in having either of these areas as a complement to their disciplinary study. The structure of the minor provides flexibility, and possible areas of emphasis include language and literature, history and social sciences, and religious studies.

## Language studies

CSAMES affiliated faculty teach Hindi, Arabic, Persian, Hebrew, Turkish and Urdu.



## Outside the classroom

CSAMES also organizes events on campus for (and with) students and faculty to facilitate discussion about current events and issues pertaining to the Middle East and South Asia. We sponsor a weekly noon Brown Bag lecture series, frequently sponsor and co-sponsor lectures such as the annual India Studies Lecture and the Turkish Studies Symposium. We partner with a variety of campus units and community organizations to host film screenings and art exhibits.

In addition to these public events, CSAMES also strives to serve K-12 audiences through classroom visits, online curriculum units, and teacher workshops.



## Resources

- **South Asian Library**  
<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/asx/southwest.html>
- **Middle Eastern Studies Library Collection**  
[http://www.library.uiuc.edu/administration/collections/collections/descriptions/middle\\_east.htm](http://www.library.uiuc.edu/administration/collections/collections/descriptions/middle_east.htm)
- **Jewish Studies Library**  
<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/hix/jewstud/index.html>