



Newly added course for fall 2025

**ASAM 055 Critical SWANA Studies**  
Wednesdays, 7:00-9:50 p.m.



Professor Niko Shahbazian

This class is an introduction to SWANA studies. SWANA stands for Southwest Asia and North Africa and is a decolonial term for the Middle East. This class will seek to queer traditional Middle Eastern Studies by approaching the ambiguity, liminality, and discrepancies of both the SWANA region and its peoples. Through a focus on SWANA minority groups, students will learn about specific ethno-religious identities and the history of racialization of SWANA people in the U.S. The class will then center on social movements, including for Palestinian liberation, and the broader connection of organizing within multi-racial and collective solidarity building.