

## **AMST 215 Introduction to American Studies**

### **Final Exam**

This is a take-home exam. Please answer **2** of the following questions.

1. What are the main continuities and discontinuities in the justifications proposed for the expansion of U.S. power in its continental, hemispheric and global phases?
2. Burke O. Long suggests that the connection between religion and nationalism in the US explains the obsession with the Holy Land. Do you agree? If so, why? And what are the international implications of this? If not, why not?
3. Melani McAlister uses five snapshots to highlight the U.S. encounter with the Middle East since 9-11. She suggests that these images became iconic in the U.S. because they resonated and relied on “a thousand things about politics, social life, and correct feeling” (p. 269). Still, these images were capable of conveying multiple meanings, so they served as appropriate foci around which to discuss the range of activities, attitudes and meanings various people have seen in public events, and to suggest what they have missed. Your task is to choose a sixth image that McAlister might have chosen but did not, to analyze its iconic stature, and its multiple meanings, and hence to shed light on the complex encounters between the U.S. and the Middle East since 9-11.