In his latest book Ussama Makdisi explores why Arabs once had a favorable view of America and why they no longer do. Unearthing this neglected history puts current politics and Arab attitudes toward the United States in a crucial historical perspective. By tracing how American missionaries laid the basis for an initial Arab discovery of America, and then how later U.S. policy decisions fueled anti-Americanism, Makdisi tells a powerful historical tale brimming with contemporary relevance.

Ussama Makdisi is Arab American Educational Foundation Professor of History at Rice University. In April 2009 the Carnegie Corporation named Makdisi a 2009 Carnegie Scholar for his contributions to enriching the country's discourse on Islam. His previous book, Artillery of Heaven, won the 2009 John Hope Franklin Prize. He will be introduced by Max Paul Friedman, Associate Professor of History, American University, and author of the forthcoming Rethinking Anti-Americanism.

Tuesday, November 9th
12:45 to 2 PM
Ward 2

For more info: Professors Diane Singerman (dsinger@american.edu), Kristin Diwan (diwan@american.edu), or Mustafa Aksakal (aksakal@american.edu)