SOCIOLOGY 389

MIDDLE EAST ON FILM: ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

Fereydoun Safizadeh

Boston College, Fall 2007

Class: Monday 10:15-1:00, O’Neill Library Room 211, Office: McGuinn Hall 426D
Office Hours: Monday 2:00-3:00 and by Appointment, Tel. 617-552-4287, Email: Safizad@bc.edu

This course seeks to expands the student's understanding of the Middle East, its peoples and cultures through national (indigenous) and international (Hollywood, European, other) filmmaking traditions. Critical examination of a number fiction and non-fiction films from Egypt, Palestine, Israel, Syria, Turkey, Iran, as well as from Europe and North America allows the students to develop a more fine grained understanding of Middle Easterner's view of self and society. Topics considered include: colonialism, nationalism, occidentalism, question of women, secularism, modernity, religious resurgence, conflict, democracy, human right, as well as portrayal of Islam and Middle Eastern peoples and cultures in Western media and cinema

Required Books: (available at BC Bookstore and on reserve at O’Neill Library under SC 389)


Recommended Books: (available at O’Neill Library)

Requirements:

1. Consistent class attendance, careful reading, and participation in the class discussions.
2. Students will be organized into groups of four to present a biography/summary/reaction/critique on the films and the readings (20-30 mins.) at least twice during the semester. There will be a group grade and an individual grade, and each student will hand in a written 1.5-2 pages for their segment of the group presentation.
3. There will be a final research paper (12 pages) based on class presentation topic/s or on topic/s that I will provide about the central issues in the course. If you would like to write on other topics consult with me. The final paper will be due in class on December 10th.
4. There will be mid-term examination on October 29th.
5. No midterm make-up or late acceptance of the final research paper without a documented medical or family emergency.
6. All written work should be typed, double spaced and footnoted or endnoted according to the MLA or APA formats. Keep a copy of everything you hand in.

Grades and Evaluation: Regular class attendance, reading and participation in class discussions 10%, summary/reaction/critique papers 25%, mid-term exam 30%, final research paper/examination 35%.
(R) = the item is on reserve at the O’Neill Library. (*) = other recommended reading or viewing material.

**Week 1. (Sept. 10) Cinema of Iran**


**Week 2. (Sept. 17) Cinema of Iran**


**Week 3. (Sept. 24) Cinema of Turkey**


Week 4. (Oct. 1)  Cinema of Turkey

Film: Turgul, Yavuz, 1996. Eskiya (The Bandit), 121 mins. Turkey: ArtCam

Bates, Daniel G. and Amal Rassam 2001. Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East, Chapters 5 & 6 (pp. 120-170).

Week 5. (Oct. 8) No Class Columbus Day

Week 6. (Oct. 15)  Cinema of Egypt

Film: Hamed, Marwan 2006. The Yacoubian Building. 161 mins., Cairo: Good News


Week 7. (Oct. 22)  Cinema of Egypt


Week 8. (Oct. 29)  MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Week 9. (Nov. 5)  Cinema of Lebanon

Film: Chamoun, Jean Khalil 2000. In the Shadow of the City. 102 mins. Ciné-Sud Promotion.


Week 10. (Nov. 12)  Cinema of Palestine/Israel
Film: Avni, Ronit, Joline Makhlof, Nahanni Rous, Julia Bacha 2006. Encounter Point. 89 mins., Just Vision Films.

Bates, Daniel G. and Amal Rassam 2001. Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East. Chapters 4 & 10 (pp. 90-142 & 251-277)


Week 11. (Nov. 19) Cinema of Iraq


Week 12. (Nov. 26) Hollywood on Middle East


Week 13. (Dec. 3) Cinema on the Islamic Revolution in Iran


Week 14. (Dec. 10) CONCLUSION - FINAL PAPER DUE - FINAL EXAMINATION, DEC. 17
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Film</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Country/Producer</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>Film: Turgul, Yavuz, 1996. Eskiya (The Bandit),</td>
<td>121 mins.</td>
<td>Turkey: ArtCam</td>
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<td>Oct. 8</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Oct. 29</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Nov. 5</td>
<td>Film: Chamoun, Jean Khalil 2000.In the Shadow of the City.</td>
<td>102 mins.</td>
<td>Ciné-Sud Promotion.</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Nov. 19</td>
<td>Film: Longely, James 2007. Iraq in Fragments.</td>
<td>94 mins.</td>
<td>USA: Daylight Factory.</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Dec. 3</td>
<td>Film: Paronnaud, Vincent and Satrapi, Marjame 2007. Perspolis.</td>
<td>95 mins.</td>
<td>247 Films, or TBA</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Dec. 10</td>
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<td>15</td>
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