Request Form for General Education Certification:
Humanities Requirement: (Except FYSM, please include a syllabus)

Faculty Member(s): Ghazi Abuhakema
Course Number: LTAR 270
Course Name: Arab Cinema
Department of faculty member(s): International and Intercultural Studies
Course Description:

This course examines contemporary Arab cinema and treats the different artistic trends and socio political issues that it depicts in different Arab countries. The course assesses critically and analytically some of the films that were made across the Arab world to define the overarching artistic features of cinema in each of the countries where the film was made, and in relation with the surrounding environment.

I. Explain how the proposed course satisfies the following Approval Criteria for Humanities:

1. The primary purpose of the course is the examination of particular expressions of human culture in their social, historical, intellectual, aesthetic, or ethical dimensions.

   In this course, LTAR 270, Arab Cinema students will read about the history of Arab Cinema and its main genres. Students will also watch several representative films from different Arab countries and analytically analyze them with theoretical frameworks that are discussed in class.

2. The course must analyze how ideas are represented, interpreted, or valued in these cultural expressions.

   Students will write summaries, reaction and essay papers in which they analyze how sociocultural notions are represented in the selected films. The films represent different Arab countries and different cinematic genres (see # 3 for the list of suggested films).

3. The course must examine relevant primary source materials as understood by the appropriate discipline(s).
Students in this course examine selected films that represent different Arab countries, discuss more than one sociocultural notion, and represent different cinematic genres. The following is a list of suggested films:

1. Viva Algeria
2. Inch’Allah Dimanche
3. Yacoubian Building
4. Girls’ Love
5. Caramel
6. Ali Zoua: Prince of the Streets
7. A Thousand Months
8. The Sleeping Child
9. Paradise Now
10. Wedding in Galilee
11. Halfaouine: Boy of the Terraces
12. A Summer in La Goulette
13. Satin Rouge
14. Man of Ashes

4. The course must require students to interpret the material in writing assignments (or alternatives that require equally coherent and sustained analysis).

Students will examine suggested films, write summaries, reaction papers to films screened in class. They will also write one main term paper in which they analyze a representative film. The paper is 10-12 page long.

II. Please provide an example of a signature assignment that the proposed course would use to enable assessment of the humanities learning outcome, using the evidence and grading rubric for the respective outcome

Outcome 1: Students analyze how ideas are represented, interpreted or valued in various expressions of human culture. (List Outcome 1 on Syllabus)

Evidence: Paper or equivalent assignment in which students analyze an idea or ideas related to the course content employing the concepts, methods or practices appropriate to the discipline.

Standard At least 80% of students score 3 or 4 on rubric.

Rubric for SLO 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does not meet expectations 1</th>
<th>Approaches Expectations 2</th>
<th>Meets expectations 3</th>
<th>Exceeds Expectations 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper (or equivalent) disregards or fails to</td>
<td>Paper (or equivalent) is unsatisfactory in</td>
<td>Paper (or equivalent) is competent, though</td>
<td>Paper (or equivalent) displays cogent analysis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
coherently engage the idea or ideas. It may lack any appropriate pattern of structure or development. Paper (or equivalent) fails to employ concepts, methods or practices appropriate to the discipline. Paper (or equivalent) shows severe deficiencies in reading and writing college-level English or the Target Language of the course.

multiple ways. It displays serious weaknesses in composition and analysis of the idea or ideas, and does not adequately employ concepts, methods and practices appropriate to the discipline.

sometimes marginally so. It displays adequate analysis of the idea or ideas and satisfactory employment of concepts, methods or practices appropriate to the discipline. Paper (or equivalent) demonstrates proficiency in the conventions of written English or the Target Language of the course.

of the idea or ideas and informed employment of concepts, methods or practices appropriate to the discipline. Paper (or equivalent) demonstrates excellent composition skills in English or the Target Language of the course.

**Signature Assignment: Cinematic analysis, film (This assignments assesses Outcomes 1 and 2):**

In collaboration with your instructor, select an Arab film to watch on your own. Write an essay where you:

- Identify the genre of the film,
- Situate it in its historical context,
- Analyze this film in terms of its significance, story-line development, and its characters.
- Discuss the ideas that are represented, interpreted, or valued in the film.
- Comment on the major cinematic techniques that are demonstrated in this film. You may choose one technique for this part of your analysis.
- Describe the principle themes and motifs? What images does the director use to express the theme or motif? What world view or perspective is demonstrated in the films? How does it fit with the Arab culture as we discussed some of its aspects in class?
**Outcome 2**: Students examine relevant primary source materials as understood by the discipline and interpret the material in writing assignments (or alternatives that require equally coherent and sustained analysis).

**Evidence**: Paper or equivalent assignment involving description, contextualization and interpretation of primary source.

**Standard**: 80% of students receive a score of 3 or 4 on each dimension.

**Rubric for SLO 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Does not meet expectations 1</th>
<th>Approaches Expectations 2</th>
<th>Meets expectations 3</th>
<th>Exceeds expectations 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description:</td>
<td>Incorrect identification, description is inaccurate, inappropriate</td>
<td>Identification/ description is insufficient, ambiguous, lacks detail</td>
<td>Identification/ description is accurate, adequately detailed despite omissions</td>
<td>Identification/ description is stated clearly and comprehensively and includes relevant information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Context:</td>
<td>Little or no description of context, or irrelevant contextualization</td>
<td>Some description of context, but not adequate</td>
<td>Primary source is reasonably contextualized; contextualization is in terms of more than one context</td>
<td>More nuance and sophistication in terms of situating the primary source; student contextualizes primary source in terms of multiple contexts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretation:</td>
<td>Paper does not move beyond description, or offers inaccurate or irrelevant interpretation not connected to description</td>
<td>Paper marginally moves beyond description; student offers inadequate or irrelevant evaluation; not reasonable connection to description and context.</td>
<td>Interpretation is reasonably connected to the description and contextualization; student offers evaluation that is less than comprehensive.</td>
<td>Interpretation arises from description and contextualization; student offers evaluation supported by the contextualization and description; student's insight takes into account the complexities of the primary source.</td>
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College of Charleston

Studies in Arab Cinema

Syllabus

Course Description

This course examines contemporary Arab cinema and treats the different artistic trends and socio-political issues that it depicts in different Arab countries. The course assesses critically and analytically some of the films that were made across the Arab world to define the overarching artistic features of cinema in each of the countries where the film was made.

Objectives

1. Students will study about the beginnings and development of Arab cinema, and will assess the urgent subjects the Arab cinema treats, and will be introduced to the most important features of the movie industry in each country,
2. The course will help students develop their reading and writing skills as they read articles and discuss them in the classroom; they will also write short and long papers. The instructor will review those papers and provide students with feedback.

General Education Outcomes:

Outcome 1: Students analyze how ideas are represented, interpreted or valued in various expressions of human culture.

Outcome 2: Students examine relevant primary source materials as understood by the discipline and interpret the material in writing assignments.

The outcomes will be assessed on term paper.

Course requirements

1. Attendance and participation
   Attending classes and participation is required. Students can miss one class without a legitimate excuse. One point will be deducted from the overall grade for every class missed afterwards.

2. Weekly readings: students will have to read all assigned readings to participate actively in class discussions.

3. Film screenings: students are required to watch a movie every week. Scheduled is attached.

4. Oral presentations: each student will present orally twice:
A. First presentation (8-10 minutes). Students will analyze one assigned movie discussing the important artistic features in the movie and commenting on the language used. Students will also discuss the major social and political themes the film discusses. In their presentations, students will rely on studies written on the movies in specialized books and journals.

B. Second presentation: (8-10 minutes). In this second presentation, students will present one important themes the movies address such as freedom of women, sexual relationships, religious freedom, ethnic and religious minorities, Arab Israeli conflict, religious extremism, terrorism, and the relationship with the west. Students will discuss such themes in several movies comparing and contrasting the different treatments and analyzing the cinematic language used. Students can also compare and contrast Arab and American cinema in this regard.

5. Term paper: Students will have two options:

A. First option (5000 words). This option will focus on film industry one particular Arab country as to its beginning and development and its distinguishing features. Students will discuss the history of cinematic art in this country and the different stages it went through, the social, economic and political circumstances that influenced it, the most important films and artists and their contributions.

B. Second option: (5000 words). This paper will analyze and critique one of the assigned films or any other films of the student’s choice. Students will discuss the film analytically relying on the approaches that we will study in the class. Students will interpret the different artistic and technical features in the film explaining how they were used to serve the goals of the film.

6. Writing summaries

Student will write 400-500 word summaries of the assigned articles. Students will present in these summaries the most important information and ideas and comment on them.

7. Reflections:

Students will write a reflection 400-500 words on some assigned movies. The students can comment on any aspect of the move such as music, sound effects, photography, lighting, screenplay, performance, etc. the students will discuss how such features impact the audience.

Grading

Attendance and participation: 15%
First oral 15%
Second oral 15%
Writing summaries 15%
Reflections 15%
Term paper 25%

Assigned Films

1. Viva Algeria
2. Inch’Allah Dimanche
3. Yacoubian Building
4. Girls’ Love
5. Caramel
6. Ali Zoua: Prince of the Streets
7. A Thousand Months
8. The Sleeping Child
9. Paradise Now
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Textbooks


