



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY
Faculty of Arts
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

ALMC 358.01
Muslim Cultures through Film

Winter 2019

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Mushegh Asatryan

OFFICE LOCATION: CHD 322

OFFICE HOURS: T 14:25-15:25

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DESCRIPTION

This course is an exploration of some of the salient cultural and social phenomena of modern and contemporary Muslims Societies of the Middle East, as seen through the medium of film. Through the prism of a number of representative films made in the Arab world and Iran, along with relevant historical and theoretical readings, we will explore such themes as colonialism, gender, politics, power, and religion. Throughout the semester, we will watch a selection of films made in the Islamic Middle East (and one about the Middle East made in the West), and will study the cultural, social, and religious issues they highlight. To give you a broader background about the cultural environment, the films will be coupled with relevant readings.

OBJECTIVES

The ability to critically assess and analyze film, and to understand the various social and cultural issues it highlights.

OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, the students will have covered a number of representative films made in the Muslim Middle East, and will have a broad grasp of some of the most important social, cultural, and religious phenomena specific to the region, while also developing the ability to express themselves orally and in writing.

DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES

Preparation and participation 20%
Weekly assignments 20%
Mid-term presentation and paper 25%
Final presentation and paper 35%

GRADING SCALE

A+ = 100-96%	A = 95.99-90%	A- = 89.99-85%
B+ = 84.99-80%	B = 79.99-75%	B- = 74.99-70%
C+ = 69.99-65%	C = 64.99-60%	C- = 59.99-55%
D+ = 54.99-53%	D = 52.99-50%	F = 49% and below



Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

COURSE NOTES

Attendance and participation is key to your success in this class. This will be an interactive class, and by attending all sessions and by actively participating you will ensure that you maximize your learning experience (and your final grade).

Late assignments

If you do not submit your papers on the due date, for each additional day you will lose 10% (e.g., if it's 100%, you will get 90%). You can have five extra days to submit your paper, after which you cannot submit it anymore and will receive 0 for that paper.

Electronic Device Policy

No cellphones, are allowed in class. You may only use laptops and tablets *to take notes*: if you use them for any other purpose, such as surfing the internet, checking email, Facebook, etc., you will be asked to turn them off. I reserve the right to ban the use of laptops and tablets altogether, should I notice that they interfere with students' participation and negatively affect class discussion in general.

Email Etiquette

I expect our email communications to be professional and respectful. Those emails, therefore, that lack the proper forms of professional address and are unprofessionally and carelessly written, will remain unanswered (e.g., ones starting with "Hi there"; "Hey prof.," or ones that lack any formal address at all).

I may not be able to respond to your emails on the same day. I likewise won't be checking my email after 5:00pm and on weekends.

During the semester, I will be providing lots of information about the course policies, readings, paper and exam guidelines – in class and in writing. In particular, I will be uploading detailed guidelines about my expectations for your exams and essays to D2L, and will be explaining them in class. **Before emailing me with a question**, therefore, check if the answer is found in one of the guideline-sheets, on the syllabus, or in your class notes. If it's already there, don't email me as I may not answer.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:

- the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
- parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
- the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.



Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION ASSEMBLY POINTS

Craigie Hall: Professional Faculties food court (alternate: Education Block food court)

Education Block and Tower: Scurfield Hall atrium (alternate: Professional Faculties food court)

Kinesiology: north courtyard, MacEwan Student Centre (alternate: University Theatres lobby)

For the complete list of assembly points please consult <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it.



Faculty of Arts
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

Please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

SAFEWALK

To request a Safewalk escort anywhere on campus, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, please call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help Phones.

Web: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

STUDENT UNION INFORMATION

Representatives and contact details: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

Student Ombudsman: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Writing skills should cross all disciplines. Students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office (<http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca/>) can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.