



**Faculty of Arts**

**School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures**

*ALMC 358.01*

*Topics in Cinema of Muslim societies (Muslim cultures through film)*

*Fall 2022*

*Lecture -Tuesday/Thursday SA 107 (11:00-12:15 pm); Lab-Tuesday CHD 420(15:30-18:15)*

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME:** Hasmik Tovmasyan

**OFFICE HOURS:** Mondays 2-2:50 pm or by appointment. Email to schedule an appointment. Zoom link for office hours will be provided on D2L.

**E-MAIL:** [hasmik.tovmasyan@ucalgary.ca](mailto:hasmik.tovmasyan@ucalgary.ca). Feel free to contact me over email at any time. Please include a proper salutation, your full name and a proper closing in the body of your email. I do not answer emails over the weekend and after 6PM. I will do my best to answer your emails as soon as possible (within 24 hours-weekends and holidays excluded). Please take that into account when emailing me questions pertaining to assignments or tests. If you have a course-related question, please check the course outline first. Questions about the course content and materials, concerns about grades, or any other personal issues should be dealt with during my office hours.

**Land acknowledgment**

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), as well as the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). The city of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3.

**DESCRIPTION**

This course explores the social and cultural aspects of modern societies in the Muslim Middle East, as represented through film. Through the lens of different films made in the Muslim World, paired with scholarly work, we will explore how colonialism, gender, politics, power, religion, memory and trauma are represented. To understand the concepts better and to be able to engage with the above mentioned themes meaningfully, we will also read some theoretical work on how the concepts we explore are socially constructed. **Warning: The materials for this course deal with sensitive topics (e.g., violence, torture, killings, rape, possibly disturbing language, graphic descriptions, etc.). While some accommodations will be made (e.g. I may be able to accommodate you with other materials in particular cases), I will not be able to change the content of the course in its entirety, so please consider seriously if this course is well suited for you.**

**OBJECTIVES**

Develop the ability to critically analyze and assess film and representation and to understand the complex sociocultural issues it tackles.

**OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of the course, the students will have gained understanding of some of the most important sociocultural and religious issues of the region, while also practising analytical writing and discussions. They will also have covered numerous representative films made in the Muslim Middle East.



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#### **REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

There are no textbooks required for this course. All the materials are available at the University of Calgary library and have online access. Check "Schedule of lectures and readings" (on D2L) for the details on your materials.

There is a D2L site for this course which contains required information on your readings, guidelines for your assignments and other relevant class resources and materials (see [d2l.ucalgary.ca](http://d2l.ucalgary.ca)). In order for you to access these materials, you will need a piece of technology.

Learning technology requirements: The course D2L site will be the organizational hub for this course. You are responsible for checking the site regularly for announcements and any changes to the schedule.

As per the University's policy, in order to ensure that students can engage successfully in the learning experiences of blended courses, students will need to have reliable access to the following, in order to access D2L and complete course assignments:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security & malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Stable internet connection;
- Ability to take a picture (of hand-written Arabic work) using a phone, camera, or other device and upload to D2L.



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#### **COURSE NOTES**

This course meets in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00-12:15pm. The lab takes place on Tuesdays, 15:30-18:15. The labs are for you to have a place and time to watch the films. Some of the films are VCR and require a certain equipment to watch (available at your lab), the others are available online and you might be able to watch them on your own technology without going to the lab. You are free to choose to watch the assigned films during or outside the lab time, as long as you watch them on time for the class and are ready for assignments and in class discussions. Please check your D2L regularly both for your daily schedule, assignment guidelines and other important course information .

**Important dates(Dates are not expected to change but may under extraordinary circumstances).**

September 6-First class session

September 13-First Lab

3 Quizzes 30% (10% each-September 27th; November 1; November 24)-in class

2 Sequence Analyses 20% (10% each-September 20; October 27)-in class

Final project 25% (due on Dec.6)-upload to Dropbox

Reflection essay about a film 20% (due on November 15)-upload to Dropbox

1 Article presentation 5% (flexible date)-in class

Contingency plan for inability to take a timed assessment during the scheduled time period:Students who miss class assessments should inform their instructor as soon as possible. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, the instructor may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.

Policy for missed/late assignments: If individual circumstances may prevent a student from meeting a course deadline, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible if the student wishes to request credit for any missed assignments. A deduction for completing or submitting an assignment late may apply, in the absence of a strong reason (such as illness or emergency). The extent of the deduction will be at the instructor's discretion, based on circumstances and how late the assignment is submitted.

Expectations of writing quality:All written assignments will be assessed at least partly based on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the writing support services in the Learning Commons. For further information, please refer to the official online University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, E. Course Information, E.2: Writing Across the Curriculum: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

Expectations of attendance: Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions. It is only through regular attendance of the classes and participation in them that you can achieve a maximum result in this course.

Class etiquette & guidelines:

- Students should conduct themselves appropriately and respectfully during class sessions and when interacting with their classmates and instructor.
- During class, please only use technology as is relevant to class. Do not use technology for purposes not relevant to class (e.g., checking email and social media). Doing so distracts you and the people around you and may result in a deduction to your participation grade.

Course evaluation procedure: Course evaluations will be conducted online.



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**ASSESSMENT**

- 3 quizzes 30%
- 2 In-class sequence analyses 20%
- Reflection essay about a film 20%
- Final project 25
- Article presentation-5%

**The Quizzes** are multiple choice tests, which aim to check whether students have watched the films and read the texts.

**The Sequence Analysis** entails watching a short (2-3 min.) sequence in class from one of the assigned films, and writing an analysis of how the sequence relates to the film as a whole, and how they impact the meaning of the film. The analysis should focus on all or some of the elements of the "language" of the film (mise-en-scene, cinematography, editing, dialogue).

**The Reflection Essay** is based on one of the films covered during the course, exploring the most important theme/s it highlights, the means it uses to highlight them, and the historical context in which the film was made.

**The Final Project** is an essay exploring a theme that recurs in two or more of the films covered during the course. The goal is to analyze how the theme is presented in these films, and to highlight the different ways the different films tackle it.

**Extra credit** There will be opportunity for extra credit. Please follow the D2L and in-class announcements for it.

**Article presentation** is a one time in-class presentation/discussion of your readings. Depending on the class size it can be presented either as a group or individually.

**GRADING SCALE**

*Letter Grade Scheme*

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	Under 50



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#### **INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT**

All members of the University community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Statement on Principles of Conduct, and to comply with the University of Calgary Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures (available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

#### **Academic misconduct**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behaviour which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-policy>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

#### **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

#### **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. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

#### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at:

<https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations> .

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:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

#### **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



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- 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](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/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 Tower.

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

#### **INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

Devices such as laptops and tablets 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.

#### **SUPPORT AND RESOURCES**

Links to information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.



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