



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

ALMC 358.01  
Cinema of Muslim Societies

Winter 2020

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME:** Mushegh Asatryan

**OFFICE LOCATION:** CHD 322

**OFFICE HOURS:** T 14:10-15:10

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 1 (403) 220-3241

**E-MAIL :** [mushegh.asatryan@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mushegh.asatryan@ucalgary.ca)

**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 the representation of 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**

Develop the ability to critically assess and analyze film and representation, 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.

**GRADING SCALE**

3 quizzes 30%  
2 in-class sequence analyses 20%  
1 reflection essay about a film 25%  
1 reflection essay about a concept 25%



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*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

**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 electronic devices are allowed in class (this includes cellphones, laptops, tablets, etc.).

*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 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.



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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.

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.

### **COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) 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/legalservices/foip> 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://www.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



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Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>).

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
- 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: [arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate](https://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](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, 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.

#### **SUPPORT AND RESOURCES**

A link to required 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>.