



# CTCS 494: CINEMAS OF THE BEACH

## Professor Emma Ben Ayoun

In cinema, the beach has been a recurring and vital symbol: the destination of many a hero's journey, a site of fear and loss, an Edenic fantasy. If film, as a medium, occupies a kind of in-between space—both real and not-quite-real, an image we encounter as alive yet impenetrable—what can we learn from the ways it visually and sonically represents a space as elusive and expansive as the beach? Moreover, cinema, much like the beach, can offer a fantasy of total escape, a respite from the stresses of modern life, at the same time as it can be a brutal revelator of our deepest fears and our darkest truths. In an age of increasing environmental crisis, more and more scholars are thinking critically about the ways we understand and represent the natural world, and what these representations have to do with how we conceive of ourselves—and how we might move, together, towards a more just future.

Thursdays

2-5:50 PM

SCA 216