

# CTCS 403

# MENA

# CINEMA

PROFESSOR SIMRAN BHALLA



**MONDAYS 10-1:50 PM**  
**IN SCA 216**

Middle Eastern & North African cinema cultures have been sites of migration, exchange, and collaboration. They have also served as a revolutionary form of communication across national borders. How did local filmmaking practices develop and respond to global political, economic, and cultural changes? The course will be attentive to regional narrative forms, genres, and aesthetic idioms. We will examine how the nation is constructed through film, and within that, how the selected films negotiate questions of identity, including gender, sexuality, religion, and region. By the end of the course, students will be able to describe how various MENA cinemas have developed over time in relationship to social and political contexts such as the decolonization of Arab nations or the 1979 Iranian Revolution. They will compare and contrast modes of Middle Eastern and North African cinemas, assessing how different formal techniques, aesthetic objectives, and production contexts contribute to each. This course will examine films from Iran, Turkey, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Algeria, Tunisia, and others, including diasporic productions.

