

AMST 325gw

(10423R)

The Middle East in Hollywood

Taught by
Professor
Evelyn Alsultany

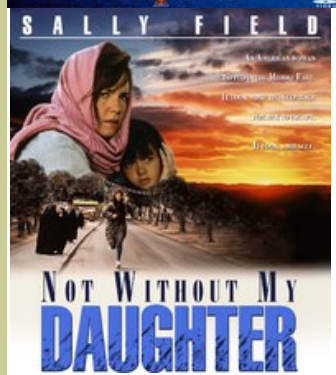
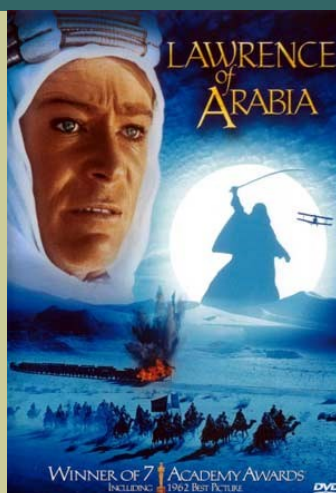
Tuesday/Thursday
11-12:20 pm
DMC 150

***Course fulfills
these requirements:**

- GE A—Arts
- GE G—Global Perspectives-Citizenship in a Diverse World

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This course explores the ways in which Arabs and the Middle East have been represented in Hollywood cinema from the 1920s to the present. Through an examination of Hollywood films over the last century, such as “The Sheik” (1921), “The Ten Commandments” (1956), and “Three Kings” (1999), a shift in stereotypes is traced from the rich Arab sheik with harems of women to the Arab terrorist. Through this process, the course examines the connection between representations and the historical-political moment in which they are created and disseminated, from European colonization of Arab nations to 9/11 and the “Muslim ban.” How have international relations, political events, and foreign policies influenced representations in Hollywood filmmaking? How do representations in film and media become part of American culture? Through examining these questions, we will develop an analysis of the changing landscape of race, gender, and American identity in film. This course is organized around watching one film per decade from the 1920s to the present to track how the image has changed over time. Therefore, we will watch a film every week and read materials to help us historically contextualize and analyze the film.