

FRE 4390 French and Francophone Cinema – Modern Languages Global Learning Course

Course description

This course, taught in French, introduces students to the extensive production of Francophone cinema (France, Belgium, North Africa, Lebanon, Senegal, Caribbean, Canada, Indian Ocean, etc), thus highlighting the diversity of the Francophone world. While comparing movies from France and various Francophone countries, students explore an assortment of controversial topics such as language issues, race, and postcolonial politics. This course not only introduces students to French and Francophone culture, but initiates them to image and discourse analysis and reinforces critical thinking skills. In sum, students will develop their ability to analyze and communicate a critical discourse in French, while examining a range of cinematographic masterpieces of the Francophone world. This is a Discipline-Specific Global Learning course that counts toward your global learning graduation requirement.

Course Objectives

- 1-Introduce to French and Francophone Cinema
- 2-Develop critical thinking using image and text analysis
- 3-Teach how to communicate ideas and arguments in French about French and Francophone culture

Global Learning Course Outcomes

Global Awareness: Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of French and Francophone movies in local and global perspectives as well as the interconnections of these dimensions.

Global Perspective: Students will be able to conduct an analysis of texts, discourses and representations produced in the French and Francophone world taking into account global and local perspectives as well as the interconnections of these dimensions.

Global Engagement: Students will be able to demonstrate willingness to address contemporary issues faced by French and Francophone societies and their diasporas.

Co-curricular Component

→This course will have a co-curricular component. In particular, we will organize a series of guest speakers with an expertise in French and Francophone, invited by the FIU community (on skype or in presentia)

→The main activity will consist in consolidating a partnership with the Miami Beach Cinematheque, asking students to review the French movies screened during the semester. The student will be asked to be involve with the topic and have a discussion in class after the event.

→The students will have to participate in events organized by SIPA, The European Center, related to French and Francophone world. This activity will allow the students to interact and be active in their learning process. It will be a part of their participation/oral presentation grade.

-FIU Guest speakers, The European Center, SIPA lectures series

Material suggested

Reading

- (1) Jean-Marc Moura, *Littérature francophone et théorie postcoloniale*, Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1999.
- (2) James F Austin, "New Spaces for French and Francophone Cinema", *Yale French Studies*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009.
- (3) Additional readings will be provided during the semester (journal articles on French and Francophone Cinema)

Movies

France

- Pépé le Moko*, Jean Duvivier (1937)
Cléo de 5 à 7, Agnès Varda (1962)

Beur Cinema

- Abdellatif Kechiche, *L'esquive* (2004)
Rachid Bouchareb, *Hors-la-loi* (2010)

Maghreb

- Merzak Allouach, *Haraga* (2009)
Nadir Moknèche, *Goodbye Morocco* (2013)

Mashrek

- Nadine Labaki, *Caramel* (2007)
Ziad Doueiri, *Affaires étrangères* (2013)

Subsaharian Africa

- Souleymane Cissé, *Yeelen* (1987)

Caribbean

- Eulzhan Palcy, *Rue cases-nègres* (1983)

Indian Ocean

- Barlen Pyamootoo, *Bénarès* (2006)

Grading

1- Participation and Attendance (8%)

You are required to watch the movies assigned for the semester. For undergraduate students response-papers of a few sentences in French will be due for each movie. Missing class will be penalized.

2- Oral presentation (22%)

During the semester, you will have to choose (after discussion with me) a topic related to the class to present, you will be asked to illustrate your presentation with examples (i.e. other relevant movies, fictions or documentaries). The presentation will be 20 minutes in length. The entire class will be expected to come prepared.

3- To the Movie (20%)

During the semester, we will consolidate a partnership with movie theaters, you will be asked to select from the movies offered in movie theaters (i.e. Miami Beach Cinematheque for example; French Week, Cannes Film Festival Selection, etc), to publish your review on a blog or forum (via Blackboard) and discuss it with the group. The objective will be to create a lively discussion about the movies.

4- Midterm 2 (30%)

Exam for undergraduate class. You will have an hour to answer questions about the movies and material discussed in class.

5- Research paper (20%)

You will have to write a research paper (minimum 1000 words and maximum 2000 words for undergraduates students, 3000 words for graduate students) to show your ability to synthesize all material we will have used together. You will choose a topic (the one you presented during the semester) to be developed, try to show your own positions, and your debating skills. The paper must have a consistent bibliography (MLA style) with no less than 10 entries.

6- Extra credit

You are encouraged to attend talks and events organized on campus and related to French and Francophone culture; a list of events with all indications will be distributed. Attendance will count as a bonus for the final grade.

Course Schedule

Part I Being the other in the French colonies

Week 1 Julien Duvivier, *Pépé le moko*, 1937

Week 2 Jean-Luc Godard, *Le petit soldat*, 1963

Week 3 Eulzhan Palcy, *Rue cases-nègres* (1983)

Week 4 Gillo Pontecorvo, *The Battle of Algiers* (1966)

Part II Postcolonial times: Beur Cinema

Week 4 Abdellatif Kechiche, *L'esquive* (2004) (I)

Week 5 Abdellatif Kechiche, *L'esquive* (2004) (II)

Week 6 Rachid Bouchareb, *Hors-la-loi* (2010)

Week 7 Rachid Bouchareb, *Hors-la-loi* (2010)

Part III Postcolonial times: New Arab and Francophone Cinema

Week 8-9 Merzak Allouach, *Haraga*, 2009

Week 10-11 Nadir Moknèche, *Goodbye Morocco*, 2013

Week 11 Nadine Labaki, *Caramel*, 2007

Part IV Postcolonial times: African Francophone Cinema

Week 12 Souleymane Cissé, *Yeelen*, (1987)

Week 13 Souleymane Cissé, *Yeelen*, (1987)

Week 14 Barlen Pyamootoo, *Bénarès*, (2006)

Week 15 Barlen Pyamootoo, *Bénarès*, (2006)

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