How to Contact Professor Davidson:
I am in my office in Bell South 200C from 8:00am to 3:00pm every Tuesday and Thursday. Feel free to stop by with or without an appointment. If you need to talk to me outside of those times, email me and we can set up a Zoom appointment. I can, of course, be contacted by email, I am usually able to respond the same business day. Please observe basic email etiquette; I will not respond to emails that do not include a subject, salutation and signature. Email davidsonga@cofc.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:
This course uses film to explore linguistic, geographic, social, cultural, religious, and political aspects of the Arab world. It will develop students’ cultural acumen and understanding of the region. Special attention will be paid to themes of nationalism, gender, sex, religion, political and militant Islam, sectarianism, class, the role of the past and social change.

Course Materials
All materials for this course can be found under the content tab on Oaks. For each film there is a file containing written materials, podcasts and videos intended to provide the context necessary for each film. This material is to be consulted prior to viewing the relevant film.

General Education Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Students analyze how ideas are represented, interpreted, or valued in various expressions of human culture.
2. Students examine relevant primary source materials and interpret the material in writing assignments.

These outcomes will be assessed through student response papers, participation in class and contribution to the class forum.

**Evaluation:**

1. **Response Papers:** Over the course of the semester you will write three, two-page film review/response papers (12 point, double spaced) each worth 15% of the final grade. In these papers, you will analyze and respond to a film we have viewed, drawing on relevant outside sources to contextualize and support your arguments. These sources will be properly cited using the conventions of the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

2. **Attendance, film notes and readings:** 20%. You will take careful and thoughtful notes as we view the films and submit a copy upon completion of the film. Secondary readings and sources that provide background and context to the films will be posted to Oaks, these are to be read before class.

3. **Participation and in class questions:** Students are required to engage in in-class discussions with a comment or question every week. You will keep a dated log of your participation each week and submit it and a self-evaluation of your participation at the end of the semester. 15%

3. **Discussion forum:** Following each class, you will post a thoughtful question or comment to the class forum on Oaks demonstrating engagement with the film and knowledge of its context. 10%.

4. **Revision:** You will revise one of the response papers you write for the course based on the feedback you receive, and continued engagement with the topic. This will be worth 10% of your final grade.

**Grade Distribution**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Response Papers</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion forum</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revised paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-class questions and Self-evaluation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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**Grading Scale**

- 92-100=A
- 86-89=B+
- 83-85=B
- 80-82=B-
- 76-79=C+
- 73-75=C
- 70-72=C-
Arab Societies Through Film

Monday 11 January
Introduction to the course and Overview of Syllabus

Wednesday 13 January
Opening Remarks on the Arabic language and Arab World and General Historical and Geographical Overview of Arab Cinema

The Arab Revolt and WWI
Begin viewing *Theeb* (Jordan)

Friday 15 January
Continue viewing and discussing *Theeb*

Monday 18 January
*Martin Luther King Day NO CLASS*

Wednesday 20 January
Finish viewing and discussing *Theeb*

**Friday 22 January**

*Imagining the Society of 1952 Pre-Revolution Egypt:*
Begin viewing *Alexandria Why?* (Egypt)

[Image: A black and white photograph of two men sitting together on a boat, one in a suit and the other in a traditional Egyptian outfit.]

King Farouk (d. 1965), the last king of Egypt and President Roosevelt in 1945.

**Monday 25 January**
Continue viewing and discussing *Alexandria Why?*

**Wednesday 27 January**
Finishing viewing and discussing *Alexandria Why?*

**Friday 29 January**

*Colonialism and its Discontents:*
Begin viewing and discussing *There is a Man in Our House* (Egypt)
Monday 1 February
Continue viewing and discussing *There is a Man in Our House*

Wednesday 3 February
Finish viewing and discussing *There is a Man in Our House*

Friday 5 February
**Revolution and Arab Nationalism:**
Begin Viewing *Nasr 56* (Egypt)

![President of Egypt Gamal Abdel Nasser addresses the Egyptian people c. 1955.](image)

Monday 8 February
Continue viewing and discussing *Nasr 56*

Wednesday 10 February
Finish and Discuss *Nasr 56*

Friday 12 February
**FIRST RESPONSE PAPER DUE**
Defeat and Disillusionment:
Begin viewing and discussing Karnak (Egypt)

Monday 15 February
Continue viewing and discussing Karnak

Wednesday 17 February
Complete and discuss Karnak

Friday 19 February
Family, Gender and Sex:
Begin Viewing Caramel (Lebanon)

Monday 22 February
Continue Viewing Caramel

Wednesday 24 February
Finish and Discuss Caramel

Friday 26 February
Continuing the theme of Family, Gender and Sex:
Begin viewing Wadjda (Saudi Arabia)

Monday 1 March
Continue viewing and discussing Wadjda

Wednesday 3 March
Continue viewing Discussing Wadjda

Friday 5 March
Finish and Discuss *Wadjda*

Friday 5 March

**Sectarianism and Civil War:**
Begin Viewing *West Beirut* (Lebanon)

Lebanese militiaman takes a break to play piano during fighting in 1983.

Monday 8 March

Continue Viewing and Discussing *West Beirut*

Wednesday 10 March

Continue Viewing and Discussing *West Beirut*
Friday 12 March  
Finish Viewing and Discussing West Beirut  

SECOND RESPONSE PAPER DUE  

Monday 15 March  
Gender, Economics and Equity  
Begin Viewing Cairo 678 (Egypt)  

Wednesday 17 March  
Continue Viewing and Discussing Cairo 678  

Friday 19 March  
Finish Viewing and Discussing Cairo 678  

Monday 22 March  
Economic and Social Disparity:  
At home view Ali Zaoua (Morocco) and discuss in class
Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Muhammad bin Salman, the de facto ruler of the kingdom since 2017, has led the country in a radically new direction.

Wednesday 24 March
Saudi Arabia: Reform and Social Conservatism
Begin viewing and discussing Baraka Meets Baraka (Saudi Arabia)

Friday 26 March
Continue viewing and discussing Baraka Meets Baraka

Monday 29 March
Finish and Discuss Baraka Meets Baraka

Wednesday 31 March
Jihadism and Radical Islam:
Begin viewing Horses of God (Morocco)

Friday 2 April
Finish and discuss Horses of God

Monday 5 April
The Arab ‘Spring’ and its Aftermath:
Begin viewing and discussing A Winter of Discontent (Egypt)

Wednesday 7 April
Continue viewing and discussing *A Winter of Discontent*

**Friday 9 April**  
The Arab ‘Spring’ and its Aftermath:  
Finish viewing and discussing *A Winter of Discontent*

President Hosni Mubarak (d.) ruled Egypt from 1981-2011.

**Monday 12 April**  
*Bringing It All Together:*  
Begin viewing and discussing *Yacoubian Building* (Egypt)

**Wednesday 14 April**  
Continue watching and discussing *Yacoubian Building*

**Friday 16 April**  
Continue watching and discussing *Yacoubian Building*

**Monday 19 April**  
Continue watching and discussing *Yacoubian Building*

**FINAL RESPONSE PAPER DUE BEFORE Monday 26 APRIL**