

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY  
CANTON, NEW YORK



**MASTER SYLLABUS**

**ENGL 266 – THE MODERN ISLAMIC WORLD THROUGH FILM AND LITERATURE**

**CIP Code: 380205**

Revised by: Ali Zaidi (March 2015)

Revised by: Kirk Jones (December 2020)

**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH/ HUMANITIES  
FALL 2019**

A. **TITLE**: The Modern Islamic World Through Film and Literature

B. **COURSE NUMBER**: ENG 266

C. **CREDIT HOURS**:

3 Credit Hours

3 Lecture Hours: 3 per week

Course Length: 16 Weeks

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE**: No

E. **GER Category**: None

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED**: Spring

G. **CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION**:

This course introduces the student to the history, cultures, and politics of the modern Islamic world with a special emphasis on film and literature. Readings will include poets such as Rumi and Hafiz as well as novelists such as Mahfouz and Farah. Films will include those of such Persian and Arab directors as Majidi, Kiarostami, and Chahine.

H. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-COURSES**: Yes

ENGL 101: Composition and the Spoken Word

I. **GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES)**:

By the end of this course, the student will:

<b><i>Course Objective</i></b>	<b><i>Institutional SLO</i></b>
a. <i>Identify</i> key features of Shia and Sunni schools of Islam.	2. Crit. Thinking – [CA]
b. <i>Describe</i> the function of sound, rhythm, and repetition in poetry of the Islamic world, as well as recognize such concepts as symbol, simile, metaphor, diction, tone, understatement, hyperbole, irony, paradox, and ambiguity.	1. Communication [W]
c. <i>Analyze</i> imagery and metaphor in film	2. Critical Thinking [CA]
d. <i>Recognize</i> and <i>remember</i> seminal events in the history of the Islamic World.	2. Communication [W]
e. <i>Distinguish</i> different forms of cultural identity as expressed in the fiction of writers from Muslim countries.	4. Social Responsibility [IK]

J. **APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT**: No

K. **TEXTS**: Text to be selected by the instructor.

Sample texts:

Al-Udhari, Abdullah, Tr. and Ed. *Modern Poetry of the Arab World*. Penguin, 1986.

Gocsik, Karen, David Monahan and Richard Barsam. *Writing About Movies*. New York: W. W. Norton, 2013.

Hafiz. *Love Poems From God*, Tr. Daniel Ladinsky, New York: Penguin Compass, 2002.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Hafiz. The Mystic Poets*. Tr. Gertrude Bell. Woodstock, Vermont: Skylight Paths Publishing, 2004.

Mahfouz, Naguib. *The Cairo Trilogy*. Everyman's Library, 2001.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Children of the Alley*. Anchor, 1996.

Rumi, Jelaluddin. *Like This*. Tr. Coleman Barks. Athens, Georgia: Maypop Books, 1990.

Shah, Amina. *Tales of Afghanistan*. London: Octagon Press, 1982.

Toer, Pramoedya Ananta. *House of Glass*. Penguin, 1997.

Yazdanfar, Farzin, ed. *In a Voice of Their Own: A Collection of Stories by Iranian Women Written Since the Revolution of 1979*. Costa Mesa, California: Mazda Publishers, 1996.

#### Sample Films:

*Alexandria Trilogy*, Dir. Youssef Chahine, Fox Lorber, 2000.

*Baran*, Dir. Majid Majidi, Miramax, 2002.

*Cairo Station*, Dir. Youssef Chahine, Typecast Releasing, 2009.

*Children of Heaven*, Dir. Majid Majidi, Lionsgate, 1997.

*Kandahar*, Dir. Mohsen Makhmalbaf, New Yorker Video, 2001.

*Taste of Cherry*, Dir. Abbas Kiarostami, The Criterion Collection, 1999.

#### L. **REFERENCES:**

De Boer, T. J. *The History of Philosophy in Islam*. New York: Dover, 1967.

Hillebrand, Robert. *Islamic Art and Architecture*. Thames and Hudson, 1998.

Nasr, Sayyed Hossein. *The Garden of Truth: The Vision and Promise of Sufism, Islam's Mystical Tradition*. Harperone, 2008.

Pinault, David. *The Shiites*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1992.

Vali Nasr. *The Shia Revival*. W. W. Norton, 2007.

#### M. **EQUIPMENT:** Audiovisual equipment

#### N. **GRADING METHOD:** A-F

**O. SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:** Students will be graded on the basis of examinations, research papers, and class participation.

**P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

**TOPICS – Modern Islamic World Through Film and Literature**

- A) Schism Between Shia and Sunni Islam
- B) Languages of the Islamic World: Arabic, Persian, Kurdish, Azeri, Balochi, Pashto, and Turkmen, Urdu, Hindi
- C) Political and Military Conflict in the Middle East
- D) Modern Fiction and Poetry in the Islamic World
- E) Colonial and Postcolonial Indonesia
- F) The Overthrow of the Shah and the Creation of a Theocratic State in Iran
- G) Civil War in Afghanistan
- H) Cinema in Egypt and Iran
- I) The Partition of India

**Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE:** None