

Espaces: le Levant

Course

FREN 303 French Influence and Culture in the Middle East
MWF 10:00–11:00 a.m.

This course focuses on French cultural influences, including literature written in French, in Lebanon, Syria and Egypt. Students will examine the ways in which France has influenced this region since the nineteenth century. Literary texts will be chosen from more recent publications. The goal of the class is to provide a new awareness of currents that helped shape this part of the world.



*The logo of the Ninth
International Francophone
Summit in Beirut,
October 2002*

Student Presentations

"French Influence in Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt"

Friday, May 9, 2003, 10:00 a.m. MP 10 (Part I)
Monday, May 12, 2003, 10:00 a.m. MP 101 (Part II)

Join us to hear summaries in English of the projects that students in French 303 have been conducting this semester on the Francophone Levant.

Lectures

"Cinema and Citizenship in the Late French Empire: Syria, Lebanon, and North Africa"

Wednesday, March 12, 2003, 4:00 p.m., Library Gallery
Elizabeth Thompson, Associate Professor of History,
University of Virginia

Professor Thompson will argue that the French competition with Americans, Egyptians, Syrians and Lebanese over control of the cinemas in the late colonial era was in fact an important arena of political struggle.

"France in the Levant: Culture and History"

Tuesday, April 8, 2003, 4:00 p.m., place TBA
Chadia Abras, Ph.D. candidate in Language, Literacy and
Culture, UMBC

An illustrated presentation of the French presence in the Levant since the Crusades, with consideration of contemporary Near Eastern attitudes toward the West.

"Egypt in the World Political Situation"

Tuesday, April 29, 2003, 4:00 p.m., Library Gallery
Tamer Mostafa, Third Secretary, Embassy of Egypt

Mr. Mostafa will discuss Egypt's role in the world today, including his nation's participation in the Francophone movement.

Past Espaces Series

- 1995–1996 West Africa
- 1998–1999 Canada and Quebec
- 2000–2001 The French Caribbean

Film

Once Upon a Time, Beirut

by Jocelyne Saab (1994, in Arabic and French,
with English subtitles, 101 minutes)

Wednesday, March 19, 2003, 4:00 p.m., Commons 328

After the destruction of the 1980s, two young Lebanese women search for Beirut's past glory through the lenses of Egyptian, French, and American film directors. Film excerpts from the 1930s through the 1970s reveal the image and the myth of a city that has long captured the imagination of both East and West



*For information
contact
Thomas Field,
410-455-6798 or
tfield@umbc.edu*



Napoleon's forces arrive in Egypt