

## ***Special Topics - Fall 2019***

### **POLS 5130-01**

**Dr. Molavi**

**Topic: Refugees, Citizenship and Immigration**

This interdisciplinary seminar explores the dynamics, contradictions and politics surrounding 'refugees', 'citizens', 'illegal migrants' and other excluded political figures with particular attention to the responses to them on the part of ostensibly liberal-democratic states. We examine the relationship between citizenship, statelessness, refugee-hood and migration as exceptions to a political order defined by membership in the city, borders, sovereignty and nation-states. Students will engage with film, fiction, visual animations and displacement maps to examine key theoretical and critical interventions by scholars who examine nation-states and cities at their margins. This course is taught concurrently with Al-Quds University's Bard College in Jerusalem, and students will receive the opportunity to have three videoconferences with Palestinian students who will have engaged with the same material. Together we will attempt to explore non-national or post-national alternatives to the nation-state and citizenship as a tool for planning and organization of people and space in the context of global migration.

### **POLS 5140-01**

**Dr. Delatolla**

**Topic: Globalization and the Politics of Pop Culture**

This advanced topics seminar uses pop culture as a lens to examine globalization and politics. The course will use academic texts in combination with films, novels, poetry, songs, and music videos and advertisements to engage with politics. Students will be expected to develop a strong understanding of critical, creative, and visual methods to in the deconstruction of cultural products, particularly in relation to their use of academic texts to further the discussions concerned. As such, students will make interventions and commentaries on subjects to do with empire, orientalism, human rights, war, gender, race, and class. Students will engage in analysis to help develop critical thinking and situate themselves as consumers of culture within the context of politics.

### **POLS 4030-01**

**Dr. Kassem**

**Topic: Media Depictions of Contemporary Egyptian Politics**

This course offers an in-depth analysis of the nature and dynamics of modern Egyptian politics. In order to familiarize students with post-1952 Egypt, assessments of Egyptian politics will be made through movie depictions of each regime. Once the trends and general imprints of each era are established, this course will then focus on the major issues and themes confronting and shaping as a republic and eventually leading to Egypt's post 2011 political arena. Such themes will include but are not limited to the following: The fall of Mubarak regime, the rise of the second republic, and the subsequent parliamentary and presidential elections. This second part of this course will analyze the patterns civil participation, the role of the military, as well as the role of Muslim Brotherhood and their fall from power after the 30<sup>th</sup> of June.