The Great War in European and Middle Eastern Cinematic Memory, (2 CPs)
Spring Term 2020

Lecturer: Dr. Michael B. Elm
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Course Number: tba
Location: University of Haifa
Time: Semester B, Tuesday, 16:00-18:00
Course Language: English

**Course Content:**
The Great War was a defining moment in modern European history but no less in the creation of the modern Middle East. The war that was promoted with the slogan as `the war to end all wars´ left both Europe and region of the former Ottoman Empire in an unstable and painful situation. Violence and regional wars continued long after the formal armistice in November 1918. 100 years later, during the centenary of the war, many feature films and documentaries are produced to reflect, investigate and rewrite the memory of this fateful event. In the course we will analyse some of these productions and compare European and Middle Eastern narratives and memories. The course investigates the intersection of historical, cinematic and political discourses of the Great War. Central questions are, which historical narratives do these films promote, how are they situated within the (trans)national frames of remembrance, how do they encode traumatic experience of warfare and reflect the `other side´, and which cinematic strategies are used to authenticate the narrations. Furthermore, the course will provide methodological tools to analyse fictional and documentary movies and is suitable for students from a variety of academic fields such as History and Middle Eastern Studies, Social and Political Sciences as well as Film and Communication Studies.

**Course Requirements:**
Attendance and participation: 25%
(Attendance required; two unexcused absences permitted)

Presentation in class (2-3 pages handout with central theses): 25%
Each presentation includes the analysis of a fictional film or TV-documentary and should be between 20-30 minutes, plus 20 minutes for discussion. Some of the presentations can be held as group assignments of up to 3 students and should be no longer than 40-45 minutes, plus time for discussion.

Final Paper (6-8 pages, due to 27.07.2020): 50%
The final paper should discuss a World War One movie, documentary or tv-mini-series and can be chosen from the list beneath or suggested by the student. It is required to include at least two academic articles about the historical content and cinematic form of the film. Papers can be written in English, German, Hebrew and Arabic. Those, who hand in their paper in Hebrew or Arabic shall discuss it with me in an oral exam of about 30 minutes shortly after the lecture period.
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Course Schedule:

Session 1  
**Introduction to the Subject**

**Intro I:** Michael Elm  
The Great War as a Cultural Trauma in Europe and Middle Eastern Memory

Session 2  
**The Great War and its Cinematic Narration 100 Years on**

**Intro II:** Michael Elm  
Scientific Analysis of History Movies on the Example of Atom Egoyan’s ARARAT


Session 3  
**The Great War in Weimar Germany**

**Film:** WESTFRONT 1918: VIER VON DER INFANTERIE, D.: Gregor W. Pabst, D 1930

**Text:** Rainer Rother, „The Experience of the First World War and the German Film”

Session 4  
**The Great War in French Cinema**

**Film:** FRANTZ, D.: Francois Ozon, FR/DE 2016


Session 5  
**Constructing a European Narrative of the Great War**

**Film:** 14 DIARIES OF THE GREAT WAR (TV-Mini Series, 8 episodes), Group Assignment, D.: Jan Peter, DE/FR 2013


Session 6  
**The Great War in British Cinema. A Gender Perspective**

**Film:** TESTAMENT OF YOUTH, D.: James Kent, GB 2014


Session 7  
**Trauma and War – The Armenian Genocide**


Session 8 The Great War in the Middle East I
Film: WORLD WAR ONE THROUGH ARAB EYES, D.: (3 Epi. / Group Assignment)

Session 9 The Great War and Coming of Age in the Middle East II
Film: THEEB, Naji Abu Nowar, JO/GB 2014
Text: Laila Fawaz

Session 10 Connecting the World Wars in German Memory?
Film: WELTENBRAND (3 Epi., German Languages skills required) D.: Guido Knopp, DE 2012

Final Session Open for Proposals
Film: Chosen by Students

Mandatory Texts:
Jay Winter, Remembering War: The Great War between Memory and History in the Twentieth Century, Sheridan Books, Ann Arbor 2006, Ch. 1+9.
Films for Final Paper:
14-18, LE BRUIT ET LA FUREUR / (DER ERSTE WELTKRIEG IN FARBE: 14-18 - EUROPA IN SCHUTT UND ASCHE) D.: Jean-François Delassus, BL. 2008
1914-1918. THE GREAT WAR (seven episodes), APB(American Public Broadcast) and BBC 1996.
AUSTERIA, D.: Jerzy Kawalerowicz, PL 1982 (Jewish community on the Polish-Ukrainian Border)
BALFOUR. SEEDS OF DISCORD, D.: Mohammed Salameh / Rick Platt, QA/GB 2017
BEHIND THE LINES, D.: Gillies Mackinnon, UK 1997 (Trauma and War)
BLACK AND WHITE IN COLOR, D.: Jean-Jacques Annaud, FR 1976, (French colonists in Africa, several months behind in the news, find themselves at war with their German neighbors)
FANGSCHUSS (COUP DE GRACE), D.: Volker Schlöndorff, DE 1976
GALLIPOLI, D.: Peter Weir, AU 1981 (Battle of Australian Fighters in Turkey)
JOYEUX NOËL, D.: Christian Carion, FR, DE, BI, IT
LA FIN DES OTTOMANS (DAS ENDE DES ERHABENEN STAATES) (TV-Dokumentation, 2 Epi.), R.: Mathilde Damoise, FR 2015
LES GARDIENNES (THE GUARDIANS), Xavier Beauvois, FR 2017
PASSCHENDAEL, D.: Paul Gross, CA 2008
SHOULDER ARMS, D.: Charles Chaplin, US 1918
THE ODE TO JOY, D.: Masanobu Deme, Japan 2006
THE GREAT WAR (26 episodes) BBC 1964, WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?v=LRMbiMWxtGM.
THE RED BARON, (Der Rote Baron) D.: Nikolai Müllerschön, DE 2008:
THE WHITE RIBBON / DAS WEIBE BAND-EINE DEUTSCHE KINDERGESCHICHTE, D.: Michael Hanke, DE/AU 2009
THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD, Peter Jackson, GB 2018
WAR HORSE, D.: Steven Spielberg, USA 2011
WESTFRONT 1918: VIER VON DER INFANTERIE, D.: Gregor W. Pabst, DE 1930
WORLD WAR ONE IN COLOR, BBC 2010, WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?v=HNwkJIV3DOQ.

Lit.: