**Final Project, 30% of the final grade**

**Popular Culture in Israel and Palestine**

NO LATE SUBMISSION

Final paper will be a review of a film, a music album, or another cultural product, which directly deals with the classroom material. The review will include an analysis and interpretation of a subject, and is expected to be written like a review that one could read in a high-brow magazine. In other words, this assignment is both academic and creative. All topics must be approved by professor. The rest of the explanation below will focus on film for simplicity sake; if you are choosing music, performance, photography, media, etc, please adjust the text appropriately.

You’ll work on this project in stages:

**Stage one (in class Nov 18)**

Select your subject (film, album, etc.) and get professor’s approval on Nov 18. Then watch a movie, while taking notes, and start looking for additional sources for your research on your subject.

**Stage two, first draft (due Dec 2 on Moodle) 5% of the final grade:**

As you think about your movie, ask yourself: What is going on in this film? What connects it to classroom material? What can you identify? What are your points of confusion? What does it remind you of? Find out who made the move, under what circumstances, what is its reception, etc. Write a short draft (about 1,000 words) using a Screening Report handout as guidance. Submit on Moodle. I will give your feedback on your ideas.

**Stage three, second draft (due Dec 9 in class) 5% of the final grade:**

Now you are ready to develop your draft into a final paper, which should include the following elements:

--synopsis of the plot and/or of the main ideas

--discussion of the cultural/historical context relevant to the film

--discussion of critical and/or audience reception

--your own research on the subject, either about the film or about the topic it is dealing with, better yet—both. You should have a bibliography of at least three academic sources (two of them from the class readings). Newspapers, blogs, websites and other non-refereed materials don’t count.

There is a lot of variation depending on what you are writing about, your personal style, etc., but the above elements should be present in your paper (not necessarily in this order). Whatever you are writing about, keep yourself focused on the main subject of this course—Israeli and Palestinian popular cultures—and connect your paper as much as you can with the classroom materials. On Dec. 9 we will have a writing workshop in class, this is when you will make the final effort to make sure that your paper expresses your ideas in the best way possible and that it corresponds to all technical requirements listed below.

**Stage four, final paper submission (due Dec 11 on Moodle) 20% of the final grade:**

**Technical requirements:**

* Your paper should be well written (i.e., revised and proofread), typo-free, and formatted according to MLA.
* Cite three academic sources (two of them from the class readings), and feel free to bring in other sources, such as reviews. Cite all your sources correctly and include bibliography (use MLA).
* For help with technical issues and formatting go to the Writing Center: <http://www.umass.edu/writingcenter/contact.html>
* The final paper should be 8-10 pages long: double-space, 12p Times New Roman, 1 inch margins, no need in title page.

**Criteria of Evaluation**

* demonstration of the knowledge of the material
* quality and complexity of analysis
* organization of paper
* creativity in choice of topic and its presentation
* correspondence to formal requirements

**Recommended Movies:**

**Narrative features:**

*Lemon Tree*

*Walk on Water*

*Jaffa*

*Cup Final*

*Fictitious Marriage*

*Wedding in the Galilee*

*Chronicle of Disappearance*

*Hamsin*

*Divine Intervention*

*A Borrowed Identity*

*Zaytoun*

*The Time that Remains*

*Omar*

*Salt of this Sea*

*Bethlehem*

*Trumpet in the Wadi*

*Paradise Now*

*When I Saw You*

*Ajami*

*Kedma*

*Habibi*

*Zohar*

**Documentaries:**

*Sling-shot Hip Hop*

*Channels of Rage*

*Jaffa, the Orange’s Clockwork*

*5 Broken Cameras*

*My Land Zion*

*Paradise Lost*

*Lady Kul El Arab*