

List of films shown in Schaefer's class:

Reel Bad Arabs in the first week

Various music videos from 2011 in the sections on the Arab revolutions

Divorce Iranian Style in conjunction with Meneley, *Tournaments of Value*

Cities of Light (PBS) in conjunction with Ghosh, *Antique Land*

Ali Zaoua in conjunction with McMurray, *In and Out of Morocco*

Various music videos illustrating Turkish music and queer Middle East to accompany Stokes, *Republic of Love*

Lots and lots of music videos and clips. I have found that students can read texts and understand them, but they can have trouble engaging critically with them, especially evaluating them and defending those evaluations. But multimedia examples can be much more productive in provoking debate, and this is how I use these videos.

Haifa Wehbe's "Enta Tani" illustrates gender dynamics, the classical heritage of the Middle East, and the ubiquity of Western pop culture: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7S62sdFxlwI>

MIA's "Bad Girls" and Beyonce's "Run the World (Girls)" show the reverse cultural flow—Middle Eastern pop culture recurring in Western culture. Whether this appropriation is non-Orientalist or neo-Orientalist is a good discussion question.

MIA: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2uYs0gJD-LE>

Beyonce: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VBmMU_iwe6U

(If you look closely at the door of the car, you can see the logo of the American University in Cairo, at 00:24, for example. I notified an AUC official when I saw it. No word as to whether any royalties ever came in from Bey's people...)

Contrasting covers can pack a ton of cultural luggage onto a (mostly consistent) form, so the Clash's "Rock the Casbah" and Rachid Taha's cover are very useful:

Clash: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJ9r8LMU9bQ>

Taha: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJkGQps1lrs>

Taha claims he was the inspiration for the song in the first place, having given Joe Strummer a Carte de Sejour mix tape back in 1981.

If I don't have time to show *Reel Bad Arabs*, I show Jackie Salloum's 9-minute summary, "Planet of the Arabs": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MilZNEjEarw>

Then I show a contrast to how Western movies portray Arabs; that is, how Arabs portray themselves in their movies, in "Arabs-A-Gogo" (again Jackie Salloum): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzSq04eGjkY>

This raises the question of representation, and hopefully the students themselves begin to question this fixation on happy smiling people dancing dabka. "So it's all about the singing and the dancing then?"

To get there, we examine closely the lyrics to Mashrou Leila's "Lel Watan":

<http://lyricstranslate.com/en/lil-watan-%D9%84%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B7%D9%86-one-country.html> (I adjusted No. 5) and then watch the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qn3EFPOuEGM>

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It's a very rich video, and students respond to the things that interest them the most. Depending on whether the conversation turns to other related issues in Middle Eastern societies, we could then go on

to discuss gender and violence, homosexuality, political activism, or music aesthetics (of course, these discussions are extended in other parts of the semester, with many more examples).

Gender and violence:

DAM, "If I could go back in time": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjnFbe7D9pY>

Boys talking about harassment in Cairo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kuX78fgizRg&feature=youtu.be>

Telfaz 11, "No Woman No Drive": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZMbTFNp4wI>

Homosexuality:

Being gay in Beirut: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/raja-farah/every-single-article-ever-written-about-being-gay-in-beirut-in-one-convenient-article_b_4221387.html

Political activism:

Ramy Essam, "Mahnash min dol": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMdXoyoZcMs>

Musical aesthetics (in which case I get to show videos I love, which may redefine 'Arab music' for the students):

Bendaly Family, "Do you love me?": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cjek-SjBMUU>

Telfaz 11's "Happy" cover: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHBrrEAWK9g>

Rachid Taha, "Ecoute Moi Camarade": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAz924KyoB8>

Lyrics: <http://lyricstranslate.com/en/Ecoute-Moi-Camarade-Ecoute-Moi-Camarade.html>

Soap Kills' cover of "Ahwak": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3cgB0VysQ8>

Lyrics: <http://www.arabicmusictranslation.com/2009/06/fairuz-i-love-you-ahwak.html>

I assign portions of Said's *Covering Islam*, which argues in favor of declaring one's political commitments rather than claiming to be "objective." This usually leads students to question how we can maintain our authority, if we start out by declaring our biases, and so we watch Reza Aslan's interview on Fox News: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQhMlIQ-ODw> We then look at his Wikipedia page, which shows his PhD in sociology (emphasis on "global jihadism") and intellectual home in a creative writing department, facts that are somewhat at odds with his apparent claim during the interview to be an expert in the history of Christianity. A lively discussion often follows.