NEW COURSE—Fall 2013
ARAB 477: Sexualities and Homoerotic Desire in Arab and Muslim Societies
Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00-12:15
Sahar Amer

Course Description:
This class will examine representations of same-sex love, sexuality and desire in Franco-Arab and Muslim-majority and minority societies in literature, autobiography and film. It will also explore the increasing number of Arab and Muslim LGBTQIA organizations that are seeking to give a voice and an identity to an often silenced and oppressed minority. We will follow their calls to action, their demands for new rights (especially in light of the Arab Spring) and how they are asserting their presence and visibility through electronic modes of communications. We will look in particular at a range of online publications and blogs, and the use of social media, such as facebook to rally, unite and create new communities beyond the confines of geography. Last, but not least, we will engage in the current debates over the appropriateness and relevance of Western models and theories of sexualities to a study of Arab Muslim sexualities. We will ask to what extent these Western models are adequate to address the complex social, political and historical forces that shape articulations of sexualities in Arab and Muslim societies today.


Films: The Road To Love; Unveiled; The Yacoubian Building; A Jihad For Love; I Exist.