



# SCII

**Schoolcraft College  
International Institute**

## ***Focus Middle East 2010***

*During 2010, the Presentation Series and International Film Festival will spotlight the Middle East.*

### **MISSION**

Schoolcraft College International Institute (SCII) strives to enhance the international and multicultural content of coursework, programs and other college activities to promote an appreciation of the diversities and commonalities among world cultures and better understand the global forces shaping people's lives. SCII and its partners are pleased to offer this series of films, speakers and events to promote global literacy.

*The series is sponsored by Schoolcraft College International Institute and supported by a grant from the Schoolcraft College Foundation.*

**January 18**

**Monday**

**9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

**MC 200**

**Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration**

The newly formed **Bridging Barriers: Unity in Diversity**, sponsored by the International Institute, is launching the semester by sponsoring events to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The schedule of events features:



- Keynote address by Dr. Ron Woods, Department of African American Studies, EMU
- Student slide shows on historical and current social problems and the various speeches/protests led by Martin Luther King, Jr., including "Letters from Birmingham," "Beyond Vietnam," "Walk to Freedom/I Have a Dream," "Poor People's Campaign," courtesy of Professor Karen Schaumann's Sociology class
- Student discussion panel facilitated by Dr. Lisa Jackson, Psychology
- Documentary screening of *Mighty Times: The Children's March* and visit from the Children's Center — courtesy of Professor Elizabeth Grace, Children's Center
- Student poetry slam
- Art exhibit featuring the works of Professor Anthony Bacon. Professor Bacon's spectacular pieces were featured in the 2009 Multicultural Calendar for CoLours, The Multicultural Network.

**January 23 through August 15**

**Exhibit "From Mocha to Latte: Coffee, the Arab World, and the \$4 Cup"**

*Arab American National Museum*

This exhibit explores the effects of coffee on the history of the Arab World and, consequently, the rest of the world. "Coffee culture" as we know it has come a long way from its origins in the Arab World. Many myths surround the discovery of this fascinating beverage, but it is coffee's Arab cultural roots that have led to continuing social traditions, the global institution we know as the coffeehouse and even some of the greatest intellectual achievements in human history.

The exhibit is located in Lower Level Gallery at the Arab American National Museum, 13624 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn.

For more info call, 313-582-2266 or go to: <http://www.arabamericanmuseum.org>

**January 25 – 28**

***Born on a Blue Day: Inside the Extraordinary Mind of an Autistic Savant***

*by Daniel Tammet*

*Pageturners*

This unique first-person account offers a window into the mind of a high-functioning, 31-year-old British autistic savant with Asperger's syndrome. Daniel Tammet sees numbers as shapes, colors, and textures and performs extraordinary calculations in his head. He can learn to speak a new language in a week and can recite more than 22,000 digits of pi. He has the most unimaginable mental powers, much like those portrayed by Dustin Hoffman in the film *Rain Man*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
25	26	27	28	29
6:30 – 7:30 PM L 105	1:30 – 2:30 PM L 105		6:30 – 7:30 PM RC 645	

**January 26**  
**Tuesday**  
**9:30 – 11:00 AM**  
**MC 200**

## **US Policy Toward Afghanistan**

*Dr. Frederic Pearson, Professor of Political Science,  
 Wayne State University  
 Director of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies*

**Focus  
 Middle  
 East**

Afghanistan has emerged as a major theater of US counter-insurgency policy and military intervention, and certainly a pivot point for the success of the Obama administration's foreign policy. The commitment will be reviewed along with Afghanistan's complicated and intriguing history of prior interventions, ethno-political strife, and regional interactions. Washington now views the area in terms of "AfPak" — concerns about both Afghanistan and Pakistan. We will consider whether this is appropriate policy, whether President Obama is following a prudent course, and whether analogies to wars in places such as Vietnam and Iraq are valid

Since graduating with a PhD from the University of Michigan, Dr. Pearson has become a recognized authority in the fields of international military intervention, arms transfer effects on civil and international wars, ethnic conflict analysis, and Middle East politics. He has twice been senior Fulbright research professor — in the Netherlands and U.K. In addition to teaching at WSU, he frequently speaks in the community on international conflict, conflict resolution, and global problems. In 2000 Dr. Pearson was designated a conflict resolution consultant to the U.S. Commission on National Security/21st Century in Washington. Dr. Pearson is published on the topics of international arms trade and the effect of arms transfers during war. He and a colleague have a new book, *Civil Wars: Internal Struggles, Global Consequences*, published by the University of Toronto Press.

**January 28**  
**Thursday**  
**6:00 PM**  
**MC 210 B**

## **Addressing Ethnocentrism: A Seminar for Faculty and Students**

This seminar is being offered to help faculty and students generate ideas for Global Roundtables. At 6:00 PM there will be discussion of ethnocentrism and student projects. At 8:30 PM, the movie *Freaks* will be shown.

Sponsored by Global Roundtables and GlobalEYZers with support from the Schoolcraft College Foundation and Learning Support Services, organized by Dr Steven Berg.

**February 8**  
**Monday**  
**11:00 AM – 12:30 PM**  
**MC 200 BC**

## **Islamic Art: Historical Development, Visual Presentation, and Iconography**

*Dr. Hashim M. Al-Tawil, Art History,  
 Henry Ford Community College*

**Focus  
 Middle  
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With a visual presentation, Professor Al-Tawil will introduce us to Islamic art, explaining its major characteristics and examining masterpieces in architecture, painting, calligraphy and minor art (ceramics, pottery, metalwork, textiles, book illumination, jewelry, etc.). His lecture will also analyze Islamic art in its cultural context and in relation with other contemporary art: Early Christian, Byzantine, Romanesque, and Gothic.

Dr. Al-Tawil, is an art historian and visual artist that researches in the history, art and culture of the Arab world and Islam. He completed his Art History doctoral degree at the University of Iowa, and his Master degree at Hartford University. He has presented courses and workshops in art history and Arab and Arab-American studies at HFCC, as well as other local schools and the Detroit Institute of Arts. A Fulbrighter 2007, and a Fellow 2010 at Nantes Institute in France, he has published studies on the early art of the Arabian peninsula in the Pre-Islamic period and topics in Islamic art.

**February 8**  
**Monday**  
**2:30 – 3:30 PM**  
**Lower Waterman**

### **Middle Eastern Misconceptions**

This presentation brings into focus the stereotyping, misunderstanding, and prejudices against Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans and other groups from the Middle East. This event is designed to prepare participants for the field trip to the Arab American National Museum on Friday, February 19.

The Peace Alliance is a student group sponsored by the Student Activities Office and advised by faculty member Sandy Roney-Hays.

*Sponsored by Schoolcraft College Peace Alliance and supported by Student Activities*

**Focus  
Middle  
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**February 15**  
**Monday**  
**10:00 – 11:30 AM**  
**LA200**

### **Comparative Analysis: Western Individualistic Societies and Middle Eastern Collectivist Societies**

*Dr. Padmaja Nandigama*  
*Schoolcraft College*  
*Instructor, Psychology*

How do cultural values influence individuals? Could some of our misperceptions of Middle Eastern culture be based on our different societal norms? A culture oriented to individualism might highly value being able to work independently, while a culture oriented to collectivism might highly value working as part of a group. The collectivistic view is that people are not separate units, but rather are part of an extended family, village, tribe, or broader society; the opposite view is that there are sharp boundaries between people, and that individuals should be able to get ahead or fall behind on their own merits. Dr. Nandigama will describe the differences in values and norms associated with individualistic and collectivistic societies in relation to the Middle East.

After graduating from Wayne State University with a Ph.D., Dr. Nandigama stayed on to teach at WSU. She is currently an Adjunct Faculty member at Walden University and Schoolcraft College.

**February 19**  
**Friday**  
**1:30 PM**  
**Lower Waterman**

### **Arab American National Museum Field Trip Dearborn, Michigan**

The Arab American National Museum is the first museum in the world devoted to Arab American history and culture. By bringing the voices and faces of Arab Americans to mainstream audiences, the Museum is committed to dispelling misconceptions about Arab Americans and other minorities. The Museum brings to light the shared experiences of immigrants and ethnic groups, paying tribute to the diversity of our nation.

This field trip is sponsored by the Peace Alliance, a student group sponsored by the Student Activities Office and advised by faculty member Sandy Roney-Hays. The field trip starts in Lower Waterman at 1:30 PM and proceeds by car pool to the Museum. Museum fees are \$3 for students if they present their student ID.

*Sponsored by Schoolcraft College Peace Alliance and supported by Student Activities*

**Focus  
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February 22 – 25

1984

by George Orwell

February 23

Panel Discussion

George Orwell depicts a gray, totalitarian world in which privacy does not exist, news is manufactured according to the authorities' will, and those with unorthodox ideas are brainwashed or put to death. Offering only two crushing choices: to betray or be betrayed, *1984* remains one of the most powerful and influential masterworks of twentieth-century literature.

*Pageturners*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
22	23	24	25	26
6:30 – 7:30 PM L 105	1:30 – 2:30 PM W 210B		5:00 – 6:00 PM RC 645	

February 23

Tuesday

1:00 – 2:30 PM

LA200

### The Armenian Genocide and its Impact on the World Today

Marjorie K. Nanian, Schoolcraft College  
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Political Science

Focus  
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In 1915, the government of the crumbling Ottoman Empire in Turkey moved to get rid of the minority Armenian Christian population. World War I afforded a convenient cover for the mass deportations, torture, and torchings of villages, a form of ethnic cleansing that was later extended to Greek and Assyrian citizens. The term “genocide” was used for the first time to describe this event, and America launched its first humanitarian aid campaign to reach “the starving Armenians.” The Nazis in Germany would later emulate the policy of genocide—with more advanced technology—for use against the minority Jewish population.

Using documentary images, instructor Marjorie Nanian will explain how these events unfolded and how they reverberate today. The massacre in Armenia helped prompt the formation of single-issue special interest groups, and it continues to influence American foreign policy. Prof. Nanian believes that today, the oil-rich republic of Azerbaijan, with Turkey’s help, is attempting to complete the 1915 genocide against its Armenian citizens.

For more information about the Focus Series contact:

Linda Gutierrez, Coordinator, Focus Series, 734 462.4400/ ext 5067/ [lgutierr@schoolcraft.edu](mailto:lgutierr@schoolcraft.edu)

For more information about the International Institute, contact:

Josselyn Moore, Faculty Co-Chair, SCII/ 734 462.4400/ ext 5271/ [jmoore@schoolcraft.edu](mailto:jmoore@schoolcraft.edu)

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The Schoolcraft College International Institute partners with

• Pageturners • Phi Theta Kappa • Student Activities •

and is grateful for the continued support of the Schoolcraft College Foundation.

**March 17**  
**Wednesday**  
**10:00 – 11:30 AM**  
**MC 200**

**Cultivating Double Vision: Teaching and Learning with Arab and Arab American Students**

*Michael Daher, Henry Ford Community College*  
*Instructor, English*  
*Director, Arab Cultural Studies Program*

Incidents such as the drama of Delta flight 253 on Christmas Day, 2009, the Fort Hood shootings in November 2009, and the exodus of Somali teenagers from Minnesota in 2008 constitute flashpoints that help to define modern American culture. Our intellectual and emotional investment in such episodes is serious, persistent, and multi-dimensional. Built into this dynamic are not only legitimate mainstream concerns regarding security, but also well-articulated alienation among Arab Americans stemming from what they perceive as cultural and religious myopia. In order to engage thoughtfully in this tense and complex dimension of the contemporary American character, we must strive in our classrooms to cultivate a double vision. Such a nuanced perception would not only acknowledge the distinctive nature of Arab societies but also recognize the manner in which the principles of Arab civilization frequently complement Western values which have served as the foundation of American social norms and ideals.

Michael Daher teaches English and American literature at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, Michigan, and serves as the Director of the college's Arab Cultural Studies Program. He wrote and co-produced features for the radio series Insights into Arab Culture, which was syndicated on National Public Radio. Daher has also taught as a senior Fulbright professor at Damascus University in Syria, and participates in a United States Institute of Peace program that examines the cultural dimensions of conflict resolution.

**March 22 – 25**  
**6:30 – 8:30 PM**  
**VisTaTech**  
**Presentation Room**  
**(VT 550)**

***Motown Burning***

*by John Jeffire*

Detroit, late July of 1967, and the city boils over. For Aram Pehlivanian, aka Motown, the Grande Ballroom and the music of the MC5 and Iggy Pop and The Temptations no longer provide a haven as destruction engulfs his city. However, escaping death in the streets during the 1967 Detroit Riots only leads him to the jungles of Vietnam and away from Katie, the girl who might be his salvation. Beaten on the streets of Detroit, hunted in the jungles of Vietnam, and fueled to survive by the music of the Motor City, Aram burns with one goal... to see Katie again.

*Pageeturners*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
22	23	24	25	26
6:30 – 7:30 PM L 105	1:30 – 2:30 PM L 105		6:30 – 8:30 PM VT 550*	

***\*Meet the Author Thursday, March 25***

**March 23****Tuesday****10:00 AM – 12:00 PM****VisTaTech  
DiPonio Room****Global Roundtables Symposium:  
Ethnocentrism Inside Out**

Global Roundtables is a symposium meant to help students participate in a global society with more alert Global Eyes. This year the focus will be on ways to recognize and deal with ethnocentrism. Discussions will revolve around prizewinning creative works submitted by students as class projects in the winter semester.

Projects might teach about ethnocentrism and methods of combating it or might present cross-cultural situations that have involved ethnocentrism.

*Sponsored by GlobalEYZers, Learning Support Services, and the Schoolcraft College Foundation*

**March 30****Tuesday****1:00 – 4:00 PM****F 530****Paradise Now**

A 2005 film directed by Hany Abu-Assad about two Palestinian childhood friends, Said and Khaled, who live in Nablus and have been recruited for suicide attacks in Israel. The film focuses on what would be their last days together. Both commit to their mission, but have second thoughts after spending a final night with friends and family. Instead of portraying the men as soulless monsters, Abu-Assad attempts to humanize them and find reasons why they would accept such a drastic, tragic fate.

Winner of a Golden Globe for best foreign language film and nominated for an Academy Award in the same category.

**Focus  
Middle  
East**

**April 1****Thursday****10:00 AM – 3:00 PM****DiPonio Rm  
VisTaTech Center****Multicultural Fair**

The Multicultural Fair, now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year, is a vibrant celebration of the wide variety of cultures on our Schoolcraft College campus which features:

- More than 2 dozen country displays where students actively share their culture and answer questions
- Performances which run continuously and feature dance, music, art and poetry
- Language demonstrations
- Demonstrations of henna painting
- Cross-cultural snacks from a variety of ethnic cuisines provided free by area restaurants.
- "Passports" issued at the door to "travelers" can be "stamped" by each country table they visit.

Besides promoting cultural sensitivity and increasing an awareness of and appreciation for other cultures, the Fair extends education beyond classroom walls by exposing students, faculty and staff to a cross-cultural experience. Most importantly, it creates an opportunity for students to teach others.

Created for students and community by students and community.

**Be a part of the Multicultural Fair!**

Contact Laura Leshok in Counseling, [lleshok@schoolcraft.edu](mailto:lleshok@schoolcraft.edu) / 734 462-4400, ext. 5203

Josselyn Moore, LA 575 [jmoore@schoolcraft.edu](mailto:jmoore@schoolcraft.edu) / 734 462-4400, ext. 5271

Helen Ditouras, LA 551 [hditoura@schoolcraft.edu](mailto:hditoura@schoolcraft.edu) / 734 462-4400, ext. 5647

*The Multicultural Fair is sponsored by the Schoolcraft College International Institute and supported by a grant from the Schoolcraft College Foundation*

**April 8**  
**Thursday**  
**9:00 – 10:30 AM**  
**LA 200**

## **Challenges of Managing Transboundary Rivers: Conflict or Agreement?**

*Diane O'Connell*  
 Professor, Geography  
 Schoolcraft College

**Focus  
 Middle  
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The scarcity of water in much of the Middle East is a source of conflict that can best be resolved by cross-border cooperation. The nature of water and its essence in sustaining life give rise to issues regarding allocation of water rights. Such issues are acute in the Middle East in part because of the importance of transboundary exotic rivers, notably the Euphrates, Tigris, Jordan, and Nile Rivers. These rivers are called "exotic" because they originate in humid regions and flow into dry regions. Water management and development decisions made by a headwater nation, where such a river has its source, may reduce the quantity of water available to downstream nations, cutting off their ability to thrive and grow. This discussion will include a brief description of the hydrology of these transboundary rivers, an outline of disputes over the management and use of their water resources, and a summary of the efforts toward a political resolution of these conflicts.

Water is an important issue to Diane O'Connell, both on and off campus. A professor of Geography at Schoolcraft for 20 years, she regularly has her students participate in the Friends of the Rouge Bug Hunts. Off campus, Diane chairs the Planning Commission for Ann Arbor Township and serves on the Board of Directors for the Huron River Watershed Council. In addition to chairing the Environmental Educational Grant Committee for the Michigan Association of Environmental Professionals, she finds time to publish on water and climate change. In 2004, Diane received a Community Service-Learning Award from Michigan Campus Compact in recognition of her contributions to community service.

**April 12**  
**Tuesday**  
**1:00 – 4:00 PM**  
**F 530**

## ***To Die in Jerusalem (2007)***

Filmmaker Hilla Medalia presents an utterly compelling documentary exploring the story of Israeli teen Rachel Levy, victim of a suicide bomber named Ayat al-Akhras, a Palestinian schoolgirl who bore an uncanny resemblance to Levy. Culminating in a heartrending meeting of the girls' mothers, the film chronicles the seemingly intractable tensions entangling two societies — and, ultimately, two families — united only by terrible violence and loss.

**International  
 Film Festival**

*To Die in Jerusalem* affords an intensely personal and fascinating glimpse of the misunderstandings and challenges at the heart of this enduring conflict.

**April 15**  
**Thursday**  
**6:00 – 10:00 PM**  
**MC 200 B**

## **The Middle East: Inside Out**

### **Festival of Short Films**

Steve Berg will present an evening of short films on the Middle East in conjunction with his English 200 course. Dr. Berg has taught English and History at Schoolcraft College for the past 10 years, during which time he has contributed significantly to the international programming and events.

**International  
 Film Festival**

