

Fall 2009

International Film Series

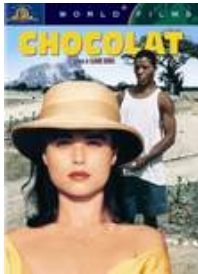
Senior Seminar LG 480

Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures
University of South Alabama

All film screenings at 7 PM in USA Library Auditorium

As part of the course requirement for LG 480, the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures will be screening the following movies this semester. The Mobile community is invited to attend the screenings and enrich the discussion afterwards with their comments.

1. September 10th – **CHOCOLAT**, Claire Denis. 1988, France/Germany/Cameroon.
(French, with English subtitles)



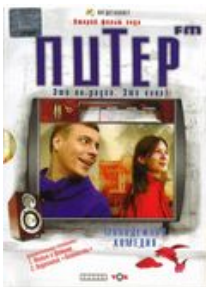
Chocolat is a lush exploration of colonial life and emotional conflicts in 1950s West Africa as viewed through the eyes of a young French girl. The film is framed by a present-day woman, France, who is revisiting North Cameroon, where her father was a district officer in the remote outpost of Mindif. Most of the film centers on the tense relationships engendered by the family's houseboy, Protée, who is beloved by the young France and respected by her father, Marc. But he is envied by their house guests, and runs afoul of the mother, Aimée, when she makes a pass at him; his refusal to accept her advance forces him out of the house.

2. September 24th - **RUDO Y CURSI**, Carlos Cuarón. 2008, Mexico.
(Spanish, with English subtitles)



Stuck working on a banana ranch, two super competitive soccer-playing brothers dream of getting off the farm and finding stardom: Beto (Diego Luna) as a pro goalie and Toto (Gael García Bernal) as a singer -- but it might break them. When a professional soccer team ignores Beto's goalie skills in favor of Toto's fancy footwork, Beto signs on to a rival team, and the battle between brothers is on. Carlos Cuarón directs this comedy.

3. October 8th - **PITER FM**, Oksana Bychkova. 2006, Russia.
(Russian, with English subtitles)



Piter FM, a Russian romantic comedy, portrays Russia's youth in the optimistic and playful culture of St. Petersburg. Masha is a DJ at one of the most popular St. Petersburg radio stations. Maxim is a young architect who gets an invitation to work in Germany. Masha is preparing for her wedding with her ex-classmate Kostya. But both of them aren't sure that they want their lives to be like that. Maxim doesn't want to leave because of the girl who left him, and Masha isn't sure that Kostya is the right

thing for her. Somehow Masha and Maxim are going to meet.

4. October 22nd - **LIVE AND BECOME, (*Vas, vis et deviens*)** Radu Mihaileanu . 2005, Israel. (Hebrew, Aramaic, French, with English subtitles)



In a Sudanese refugee camp sheltering Ethiopians displaced by civil war and famine in 1984, the Israeli secret service has begun *Operation Moses*, airlifting thousands of Falashas, or Ethiopian Jews, to Israel. A non-Jewish Ethiopian woman persuades a Falasha woman whose own son has just died, to allow her son to assume his identity. Renamed Schlomo, the boy is adopted by a loving, liberal Israeli family; however Israel, rather than being the Promised Land, turns out to be rife with racism. We follow Schlomo through the trials and tribulations of assimilation.

5. October 29th - **SÉRAPHINE**, Martin Provost. France, 2008. (French, with English subtitles)



Awestruck by the vibrant and imaginative artwork of uneducated housekeeper Séraphine Louis (Yolande Moreau) -- who spends her days doing menial chores -- German art critic Wilhelm Unde (Ulrich Tukur) takes the promising painter under his wing. Though her neighbors and others dismiss Séraphine's work, Unde is determined to turn the obscure French artist into a star in this revelatory biopic also starring Geneviève Mnich and Nico Rogner.

6. November 12th - **WINGS OF DESIRE, (*Der Himmel über Berlin*)** Wim Wenders. 1987, Germany. (German, with English subtitles)



Wim Wenders won the award for Best Director at the 1987 Cannes Film Festival for this captivating vision about an angel (Bruno Ganz) who falls in love with a beautiful circus performer while drifting unnoticed through West Berlin. Overcome by the girl's beauty, the angel decides he wants to become human. Peter Falk also stars, as himself, and aids the angel in his decision-making process.

All movie descriptions have been adapted from various websites and other publicity materials.

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