September 27  “Mustang”  (Turkey, 2015)
Set in a coastal town in northern Turkey, Mustang tells the story of five young sisters imprisoned in their own home and forbidden any contact with the outside world. The film explores the girls’ reaction to their oppressive situation, their individual strength, and their loyalty to each other. Directed by Deniz Gamze Erguven, the film’s themes are both universal and a commentary on contemporary Turkish culture and politics. Mustang won the Cesar Award for Best First Feature Film and received a 2016 Academy Award nomination for Best Foreign Language Film.

October 4   “Difret”  (Ethiopia, 2015)
Directed by Zeresenay Mehari, this film is based on the true story of a 14 year-old girl who was kidnapped for a forced marriage as she was on her way home from school. The girl shoots her intended “husband” and is subsequently tried for murder. A female legal aid activist comes to the girl’s defense and argues that the shooting was a matter of self-defense. Secretary of State John Kerry praised Difret as “a story of conscience and conviction that ought to inspire everybody.”

October 11  “Two Days, One Night ”  (Belgium, 2014)
Two Days, One Night focuses on the character of Sandra Bya, an employed mother trying to save her job at a small company that makes solar panels. In order for her to keep her job her co-workers will have to agree to forgo their bonuses worth 1,000 Euros. Bya has one weekend to persuade her co-workers to do so. Directed by Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne, Marion Cotillard received a 2015 Academy Award nomination for her portrayal of Bya.

October 18  “A Girl Walks Home Alone At Night ”  (Iran, 2014)
Directed by Ana Lily Amirpour, this debut feature film is described by reviewers as a “Middle Eastern feminist vampire romance” that makes a social statement about the lives of contemporary Muslim women. While this black and white film was made in Bakersfield, California, it is in Farsi and the characters are played by Iranian ex-pats. One reviewer describes the film as “a collision of influences that blend into a surreal thriller that is sometimes creepy, sometimes sweet, but consistently spellbinding. It is impossibly cool and deserves to be sought out.”

October 25  “The Second Mother”  (Brazil, 2015)
The Second Mother tells the story of Val who works as a housekeeper for a wealthy family in Sao Paulo. The family’s orderly life is disrupted when Val’s estranged daughter arrives on the scene. Directed by Anna Muylaert, the film explores class barriers, familial interactions, and Mother/Daughter relationships. The actors in this film were recognized with a Special Jury Prize for acting at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival.

This event is Open to the Public and is also a one-credit, P/F course (WOMS 290-010).
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The Department of Women and Gender Studies Presents
Gender in International Film Series
Tuesdays, September 27 - October 25, 2016
Memorial Hall 123  3:35pm-6:35pm