September 26  “The Eagle Huntress” (Mongolia/US, 2016)
The Eagle Huntress tells the true story of Aisholpan, a 13-year-old girl who trains to become the first female in 12 generations of her Kazakh family to become an eagle hunter. Eagle hunting is a tradition that has been handed down from father to son for centuries. Aisholpan never doubts her ability to be as strong and brave as any boy, and she is willing to overcome any obstacle to fulfill her dream of becoming an eagle hunter. New York Time’s film critic A.O. Scott says that The Eagle Huntress is “a movie that expands your sense of what is possible.”

October 3  “Persepolis” (Iran, 2007)
Based on the graphic novel by Marjane Satrapi, Persepolis follows Satrapi’s growth from her childhood to her teen-age years in Iran. Satrapi was nine years old during the fundamentalist take-over in her country. The film traces the struggles she faced both inside and outside Iran. Persepolis uses black and white graphic images to tell its powerful story. Critics have characterized the film as an emotionally powerful autobiographical gem.

October 10  “Tanna” (Australia, 2015)
This film is set on the remote Pacific island of Tanna in the nation of Vanuatu and is enacted by the Yakal tribe. It tells the story of Dain, a chieftan’s grandson, and Wawa, the granddaughter of a Shaman. The couple is in love but a longstanding rivalry with a neighboring tribe stands in the way of their relationship. While the story sounds like an adaptation of Romeo and Juliet, it is based on actual events that happened less than thirty years ago. Tanna received an Academy Award nomination for Best Foreign Language Film in 2016.

October 17  “Water Lilies” (France, 2007)
This first film from French director Celine Sciamma was made when she was just 27 years old. It became part of a trilogy from this director, which also includes Tomboy and Girlhood. Water Lilies explores girlhood, sexuality and identity in a coming-of-age story that focuses on three girls who are members of a synchronized swimming team located in the suburbs of Paris. Critics have called the film “fearless” and have credited Sciamma with a willingness to tackle issues of adolescent sexuality that many filmmakers avoid.

October 24  “The Salesman” (Iran, 2017)
A young couple is forced to move when their apartment is damaged. They relocate to a new apartment but are unaware of potential danger related to a previous tenant. A violent incident changes the lives of the couple and creates a tension between them that challenges their relationship. This film was written and directed by master Iranian filmmaker Asghar Farhadi whose 2011 film, A Separation, won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. A. O. Scott of the New York Times says that Farhadi “builds a solid and suspenseful plot out of ordinary incidents.”

This event is Open to the Public and is also a one-credit, P/F course (WOMS 290-010). Coordinated by Kathy Turkel ◙ kturkel@udel.edu