

This undergraduate honors thesis explores the experience of the children of North African immigrants in France through films made by and about them, particularly in the historical context of colonialism and the post-colonial condition. Through this examination I endeavor to illustrate the illuminating nature of these films and the unique way in which they explore and expose the lived experience of descendants of Maghrebi immigrants. This thesis begins by outlining French colonial history in North Africa beginning in 1830 through the Algeria War, it then moves into the era of decolonization and discusses Maghrebi immigration to France. From this historical context, a thematic analysis of eight films highlights and examines particular aspects of contemporary French society associated with immigration and the children of Maghrebi immigrants such as racial, ethnic and spatial discrimination, the limitations of the French education system, economic marginalization, crime and violence. The films that will be analyzed to demonstrate these problems include *Métisse (Café au Lait)*, *La Haine (Hate)*, *100% Arabica*, *L'Esquive (Games of Love and Chance)*, *La Graine et le mulet (The Secret of the Grain)*, *Adieu Gary (Goodbye Gary)*, *Entre les murs (The Class)*, and *Un Prophète (A Prophet)*. Utilizing the medium of film this thesis will demonstrate the unique position that the children and grandchildren of Maghrebi immigrants occupy in French society.