FRENCH & FRANCOPHONE DOCUMENTARY FILM SERIES

All films in the series will have English subtitles.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30
7:00 p.m., Haverford College (VCAM Screening Room)

LES ARRIVANTS, by Claudine Bories and Patrice Chagnard (2010)

Every day, they come from Azerbaijan, Mongolia, Congo, Sri Lanka, Iraq or Chechnya: whole families, with or without luggage, with or without passports, by charter flights or in trucks. Among them, there are pregnant women, young lovers, old people. They have exhausted and feverish eyes in which one can detect intense fear and hope. How to respond to this flood of distress and need? This film tells their stories during four months as they pass through the French system of asylum, CAFDA (Coordination pour l’Accueil des Familles Demandeuses d’Asile).

(Followed by a Q&A with Kathryne Corbin)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20
7:00 p.m., Bryn Mawr College (Carpenter Library B21)

ASSISTANCE MORTELLE, by Raoul Peck (2013)

Haitian-born director Raoul Peck, whose fiction and nonfiction titles include “The Man by the Shore” and “Lumumba: Death of a Prophet,” made “Fatal Assistance” over a two-year period after the 2010 Haitian earthquake. The documentary suggests with excruciating detail and geopolitical sweep how far good intentions and billions of promised dollars go. That is one of the sobering truths in “Fatal Assistance,” a potent and persuasive documentary, which examines how international aid agencies failed Haiti after the disaster.

(Followed by a Q&A with Julien Suaudeau)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20
7:00 p.m., Haverford College (VCAM Screening Room)


The epic stories of national teams are moments of collective communion that few other events are often capable of generating. The story of the French national soccer team, les Bleus, since 1996 reflects the communal joys and deceptions of a country, the markers of a time and an era. This documentary recounts the episodes that compose collective history and resonate like an echo to the question that has sparked societal debate in France for more than 20 years: national identity. How do les Bleus render an identity (in)visible? How does a team grapple with such questions of discrimination, diversity, and equality -- which are further reflected (or not) by the society as a whole?

(Followed by a Q&A with Christophe Corbin)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10
4:00 p.m., Bryn Mawr College (Carpenter Library B21)

MARIANNES NOIRES, by Mame-Fatou Niang

Seven French-born women of African descent confront their own unique identities and challenge the expectations of French society. While some came from great privilege, and others came from nothing at all, they each have attained a high level of success and influence, which they use to increase visibility for Black women in France. However, despite their power, their achievements, and their leadership, they all face systemic inequality.

(Followed by a masterclass by Mame-Fatou Niang)