

Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series

School of International and Public Affairs



WWI Commemoration Film Series

Lawrence of Arabia

The Battle for the Arab World

PBS Documentary Screening and Commentary

Thursday, October 30, 2014 | 6:30 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | CBC 155

This engrossing investigative documentary produced by PBS digs deep into the life of controversial British Army officer Thomas Edward Lawrence. Commissioned as an intelligence officer, the enigmatic Lawrence played a pivotal role fomenting dissent in the Arab lands controlled by the Ottoman Empire. The Ottomans were German allies during the First World War and the destabilization of the Ottoman Empire by exploiting Arab nationalism became a strategic priority for the British. Lawrence fought alongside Arab irregular troops in extended guerrilla operations against the armed forces of the Ottoman Empire. Lawrence's major contribution was to convince Arab leaders to coordinate their actions in support of British strategy. The Arab Revolt, as it came to be known, contributed greatly to the success of British military campaigns throughout the Middle East. Lawrence was exceedingly sympathetic to the cause of Arab independence. But the defeat of the Ottomans and the collapse of their empire ultimately would not bring this about. Instead, Britain, France and Italy carved up the Ottoman Empire among themselves, thus shaping the Arab region into its present incarnation and planting the seeds for many of the conflicts that plague the region to this day.

Co-sponsored by the **Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence, European Studies Program, Middle East Studies Program, Initiative for Muslim World Studies and Department of History.**

This event is free and open to the public. To RSVP, please [click here](#).
For more information, please contact 305-348-7266.