Baltimore discusses how U.S. perceptions of Saudi Arabia from the 1950s to the 1970s, were shaped by American attitudes about modernization. Over this period, the American public came to view Saudi Arabia through depictions in the press and popular culture as ‘the paradoxical kingdom’ - a land of camels, Cadillacs, and nouveau riche oil sheikhs somehow frozen between tradition and modernity. The endurance of this image contributed to the cultural shock of the 1973-74 oil revolution, and greatly complicated official U.S.-Saudi efforts to forge a special relationship in the new era of global interdependence. Baltimore, who received his BA and MA from Temple, is a doctoral candidate at UC Santa Barbara. His research focuses on cultural, economic, and political connections between the United States and the Arab world, with a specific emphasis on the "special relationship" between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia. His dissertation, "Oil Shock," examines the ways in which American attitudes about modernization and consumption shaped popular perceptions of Saudi Arabia, as well as U.S.-Saudi diplomatic relations.

Wednesday, October 26, 2011
3:00pm
Gladfelter Hall, 9th Floor,
Weigley Room

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