Jesse Aizenstat is a journalist, filmmaker, award-winning author, and avid surfer. Originally sent to the Eastern Mediterranean to cover the unusual topic of surfing in the region, Jesse turned his experiences into a book that is both informative and adventurous. *Surfing the Middle East* is a page-turner which features an unusual combination: surfing and the politics of the Middle East. Jesse explores what it means to forge connections among different peoples in war-torn regions while "catching waves" in an unlikely part of the world. Reza Aslan has called it: "a rip-roaring adventure -- both entertaining and educational -- through some of the Middle East's hottest danger zones." As a UCSB graduate, Jesse also models how recent college graduates can initiate career opportunities by combining their interests and passions.

The lecture is offered in conjunction with Prof. Erith Jaffe-Berg's course "Staging the Middle East" which is itself offered as part of the Peace and Conflict Studies program, the Middle East and Islamic Studies program and the UCR Theatre Department.

**Date:** October 22, 2014  
**Time:** 1:00-3:00pm  
**Place:** HUM 411

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