**Course Syllabus**

Film has the ability to project powerful images of a society in ways conventional academic mediums cannot. This is particularly true in learning about India, which is home to the largest film industries in the world. This course explores images of Indian society that emerge through the medium of film. Our attention will be focused on the ways in which Indian society and history is depicted in film; critical social issues being explored through film; the depicted reality vs. the historical reality; and the powerful role of the Indian film industry in affecting social orientations and values.

**Class format**

Professor Weiss will open each class with a short lecture on the issues which are raised in the film to be screened for that day. We will then view the selected film, followed by a short break, and then extensive in-class discussion. Given the length of most Bollywood films, we will occasionally need to fast-forward through some of the song/dance sequences.

There will be assigned readings for each day which can be found either in the following required texts (available at the UO bookstore) or through hot-links from the class website. Please try to complete *all readings* before the day in which they will be discussed. Most recommended films are available at Vishnu India Imports (135 E. 29th Ave., Ph: 343-6932), other Indian stores in Portland/Beaverton or through Netflix.

The required books are:


**Requirements:**

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>a typed, 2-3 page double-spaced essay exploring cultural issues presented in any film viewed. The essay should draw upon readings and class discussion as relevant and is due at the beginning of the class after the film is screened.</td>
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<td>take-home examination, to be handed out in class Thursday July 17 and is to be submitted to Professor Weiss by 2 pm on Tuesday July 22, in 307 PLC.</td>
<td>35%</td>
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6-page paper (approx.) due in 175 PLC no later than Friday July 25 at noon. 35%
The paper is to explore any social issue that was raised in a segment of this course. You are to look at its social origin, and then focus on the way in which this issue is in flux in India today. You need to confirm the topic of your term paper by the middle of the term. There are a number of books recommended throughout the syllabus “for further reading;” these are good places to start researching your paper. (If you would like to customize this requirement further because of your professional needs, I am happy to accommodate such requests. Please come talk with me in person; not just via e-mail.) While you can begin researching and writing the paper at any time during the term -- and submit it whenever you would like -- the absolute deadline for turning it in is Friday July 25. I will be departing the U.S. on July 27 and will take the papers with me to grade. They will be available for pick-up (or return via mail) at the beginning of Fall term.

Course Outline

June 24-26  Introduction to the Course; Historical Depiction of Indian Society and
Rewriting History through Film

*Historical overview notes accessible through course website*

(1 hour)
Larger than Life: India's Bollywood Film Culture Films for the Humanities &
Sciences, 2005 (57 minutes)
Thursday: Jodhaa Akbar, directed by Ashutosh Gowariker, 2008 (213 minutes)

Recommended films:
Devdas, directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, 2002
Garam Hava (Hot Winds), directed by M.S. Sathyu, 1973
Ghare Baire (The Home and the World), directed by Satyajit Ray, 1984

Readings:
Ganti, “Introduction” pp. 1-37; “From Vice to Virtue” pp. 41-53
Context” pp. 31-51; “The Arts: Cinema” pp. 276-279
Singer, Milton "Passage to More than India: A Sketch of Changing European and American
Images" When a Great Tradition Modernizes: an Anthropological Approach to Indian
Civilization Praeger Publishers, 1972, pp. 11-37 (*hot-linked through course website*)

July 1-3  History from Within and Views of the 'Other';
Relevance of History Today

Films: Lagaan (Once Upon a Time in India), directed by Ashutosh
Gowariker, produced by Aamir Khan Productions, 2001 (224 minutes)
Lage Raho Munna Bhai, directed by Rajkumar Hirani, 2006
*OR* (students’ choice)
A Passage to India, directed by David Lean, 1984
Recommended films:
*Gandhi*, directed by Richard Attenborough, 1982
*Henna*, directed by Randhir Kapoor, 1991
*Mirch Masala (Hot Spices)*, directed by Ketan Mehta, 1985
*The Rising: Ballad of Mangal Pandey*, directed by Ketan Mehta, 2005

**Readings:**
Ganti, “The Structure, Organization and Social Relations of the Hindi Film Industry” pp. 175-213

**July 8-10**
Bollywood!
Changing Gender Roles and Family Norms

**Films:** *Laaga Chunari Mein Daag (Journey of a Woman, or There Seems to be a Stain on her Shirt)*, directed by Pradeep Sarkar, 2007 (137 minutes)
*Yeh Jawaani hai Deewani* (literally, *This Youth is Crazy*), directed by Ayan Mukherjee, 2013 (160 minutes)

Recommended films
*Amar, Akbar, Anthony* directed by Manmohan Desai, 1977
*Baghban (The Gardener)* directed by Ravi Chopra, 2003
*Billu Barber* directed by Priyadarshan, 2009
*Bunty aur Babli* directed by Shaad Ali, 2005
*Hum Tum (You and I)*, directed by Kunal Kohli 2004
*Jab We Met (When we Met)*, directed by Imtiaz Ali, 2007
*Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna (Don't Say We Will Never Meet Again)* directed by Karan Johar, 2006
*Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham (Sometimes There's Happiness, Sometimes Sadness)* directed by Yash Johar, 2001
*Lajja (Propriety)*, directed by Raj Kumar Santoshi, 2002
*Om Shanti Om*, directed by Farah Khan, 2007
*Salaam Namaste*, directed by Siddharth Anand, 2005

**Readings:**
Ganti, “From Slumdogs to Millionaires” pp. 77-80, 90-118; “Pleasing both Aunties and Servants: Classifying the Audience” pp. 293-313
July 15-17  Social Pressure, Religion and the Fear of Terrorism Today

Films:  *Three Idiots*, directed by Rajkumar Hirani, 2009 (170 minutes)  
        *A Wednesday*, directed by Neeraj Pandey, 2008 (104 minutes)

Recommended films
*Bombay*, directed by Mani Ratnam, 1996
*Dhobi Ghat (Mumbai Dairies)*, directed by Kiran Rao, 2010
*Fanaa*, directed by Kunal Kohli, 2006
*Guru*, directed by Mani Ratnam, 2007
*Khamosh Pani (Silent Waters)* directed by Sabiha Sumar, 2003  
        (Pakistan)
*Khuda kay Liye (In the Name of God)*, directed by Shoaib Mansoor, 2007 (Pakistan)
*My Name Is Khan*, directed by Karan Johar, 2010
*Salaam Bombay!* directed by Mira Nair, 1988
*Veer Zaara*, directed by Yash Chopra, 2004

Readings: