

COURSE SYLLABUS
21:510:289:01 India in Cinema
Spring 2015
Conklin 446
Tuesday, Thursday: 11:30a-12:50p

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Office Hours: 1-2p on Tuesdays, 8:30-9:30a on Thursdays, & by appointment
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Course Overview

This course traces Indian presence in cinema through films concerning India, its society, politics, culture or history, and examines the primarily visual cinematic medium as one striving to create perspectives on reality for its audiences via screen symbols and meanings. The course aims at a critical and creative reading of cinematic narratives showcasing India in particular ways and dispersed across territories, more so in global contexts. As such, students will be encouraged to identify moments in cinema history relevant to India, qualify cinema as an independent art form and locate the broader links of filmmaking with everyday life. In addition, students will be able to consistently practice their reading and writing skills on quizzes and papers. Further, students will be able to bring questions and observations to class on numerous occasions throughout the semester. The course format will be a combination of lecture and class discussion, with focus on the latter. Class discussion will draw upon several strategies designed to facilitate student comprehension and participation. At the same time, students' purposeful reflection – i.e., regularly examining what has been learnt and connecting it to what is being learnt – will be indispensable to developing interpretive skills and new understanding as this course progresses. Prior knowledge of cinema or Indian history will be an asset but is neither required nor assumed for this course.

Students must be prepared to learn a few vernacular terms. A glossary is provided as a learning aid. It is suggested to also reflect on your own reception and responses to Indian cinema as you engage with it as well as note how the term “Bollywood” – clearly a linguistic blend of Hollywood – really speaks to distinct technological, literary and theatrical contexts producing *different* screen cultures and performances.

Course Readings

There are two course textbooks (kindle editions recommended for access on devices in class):

1. Rachel Dwyer. *Bollywood's India: Hindi Cinema as a Guide to Contemporary India [Kindle Edition]* (London: Reaktion Books, 2014). Sold by: Amazon Digital Services, Inc. Print Length: 272 pages; File size: 2990 KB. ASIN-B00OV4VJTM.
For kindle edition, go to <http://www.amazon.com>
Textbook website: <http://www.reaktionbooks.co.uk/display.asp?K=e2013102211004687>
Print Version ISBN-10: 1780232632
2. Sangita Gopal & Sujata Moorti ed., *Global Bollywood: Travels of Hindi Song and Dance [Kindle Edition]* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2008). Sold by: Amazon Digital Services, Inc. Print Length: 352 pages; File size: 2359 KB. ASIN-B00440D1M6.
For kindle edition, go to <http://www.amazon.com>
Textbook website: <http://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/global-bollywood>
Print Version ISBN-10: 0816645795

Additional course materials are posted to <https://blackboard.newark.rutgers.edu/> as needed. Course materials posted to blackboard may be accessed by students registered for the course and be used for course-related purposes only.

All course readings are assigned on a bi-weekly basis [*for further details, see PDF file 'IC Reading List and Calendar'*]. Assigned readings could include selections from our course textbooks and readings downloadable from blackboard.

Students may access course materials from their preferred devices while class is in session. That being said, all the students present are responsible for ensuring that our learning environment's integrity is maintained at **all times** by refraining from, while class is in session, using devices for any non-course purpose, failing which hefty class grade penalties apply without exception.

Onward of January 27 (week 2), coming to class without being able to access assigned readings will negatively influence the student's class grade. No excuses, e.g., no blackboard access, late registration are acceptable.

Course Policies

1. Academic Integrity and Code of Student Conduct

Registration for this course assumes the student's agreement to read and abide by the university's policy on academic integrity and code of student conduct. This information is available on <http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity>.

In particular, note the following: proper classroom etiquette is required of all and at all times; no cellphones etc., may be used while class is in session; plagiarism and cheating will fetch a failing grade on the course, and additional penalties determined by Newark Academic Integrity Facilitators may apply; students must fully fill out the **Academic Integrity Honor Pledge** on every assignment. **No pledge, no grade.**

Academic Integrity Honor Pledge

On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment).

Print Name:

Signature:

2. Attendance

Attendance is required – no exceptions. Bring any special circumstances to the instructor's attention immediately. Please bear in mind that:

Any student who misses eight or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences may not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw to avoid getting a failing grade.

If a student misses more than two classes before and after the drop date, their final grade is lowered by a third of a grade; if a student misses more than four classes, their final grade is lowered by one full grade; and, if a student misses more than six classes, their final grade is lowered by two full grades.

All student communication concerning class absences – indeed, important course-related matters – must be made on e-mail; verbal intimation alone is not sufficient. Class absences that can be excused include (i) planned absences, i.e., participation in university athletics and religious observance excused per university policy (ii) emergencies. Supporting documentation will be required and must be produced with minimal delay. Also note:

- Students are responsible for signing attendance sheet in each class – they will have until 11:35a to do so.
- Arriving late to class or leaving class early without the instructor's prior permission will cause loss of attendance for the day (there is no partial attendance).
- Makeups are **not** permitted for missed classes, quizzes & papers.

3. Students with Special Needs and Disability

Students with special needs and disability are requested to first contact the Office of Student Life and Leadership, Paul Robeson Campus Center for academic accommodations, approvals and related documentation. For further information, see the following link: <http://robeson.rutgers.edu/studentlife/disability.html>. Once a letter of accommodation is granted, the concerned student is advised to contact the instructor to discuss implementing the approved accommodation. If needed, the student may electronically access course materials in class, record lectures, and capture slide images of lecture presentations with the instructor's permission.

4. Office Meetings, Blackboard Access and Course Communication

Office hour meetings are walk-ins. E-mail the instructor in advance for appointments, which will be scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9:00-10am and 1:00-3:00pm. Individual paper and grade questions will typically be brought to office meetings. Students are also welcome to meet the instructor with their feedback at any point or to discuss any course-related matters as needed.

Students are responsible for regularly checking their e-mail and blackboard – a few times in a day is recommended! – for e-mails from the course instructor and updates and class announcements posted to blackboard. Neither will bounced, skipped or forgotten e-mails nor will blackboard problems/access issues be considered as valid reasons for any purpose in this course. It is the students’ responsibility to resolve any blackboard/account issues without delay: the on-campus ‘Help Desk’, not the instructor, is the relevant resource in this regard.

On course e-mails, make sure that the addressee and sender’s name along with a short and relevant subject line are provided. Voicemail messages are not acceptable.

Course Requirements

1. Class Participation: Class preparedness, participation in class discussion and class conduct.
2. Short Assignments: In-class assignment format may vary (e.g., objective type, filling in blanks, short essays and answers etc.). For Short Assignments schedule, see PDF file ‘IC Calendar and Reading List’.
3. Long Papers: Two papers (4-6 pages each) due via blackboard – details will be on blackboard closer to the time. For paper submission schedule, see PDF file ‘IC Calendar and Reading List’.

Scoring Rubric and Grades

CATEGORY	WEIGHT
Class Grade	20%
Short Assignments	40%
Long Papers	40%

Grades are non-negotiable. A student’s final grade is based on their individual performance and fulfillment of the course requirements listed on the syllabus.

Outline of Topics*

WEEK	TOPIC
1. Jan 20, 22	Introduction
2. Jan 27, 29	Indian Cinema: Contexts, Audiences, Music
3. Feb 3, 5	Unity: Film and the Past

4. Feb 10, 12	Unity: National and Trans-national
5. Feb 17, 19	Diversity: Region and Language
6. Feb 24, 26	Diversity: Caste and Class
7. Mar 3, 5	Religion: Myths and Beliefs
8. Mar 10, 12	Religion: Practices
9. Mar 24, 26	Emotions: Melodrama
10. Mar 31, Apr 2	Emotions: Anger and Happiness
11. Apr 7, 9	Home: Gender and Love
12. Apr 14, 16	Home: The Family
13. Apr 21, 23	The World: Education and Work
14. Apr 28, 30	The World: Lifestyle and Leisure

**See 'IC Reading List and Calendar' on blackboard for additional details.*

Note: The syllabus is subject to change. Students will be notified of any changes immediately.

Have a nice semester! 😊