FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR: MES 190
VIEWING THE MIDDLE EAST AND INDIA:
Cinema of Egypt, India, Iran, Israel and Turkey

Spring 2004

TT 4-5:15
Screening: W 7-9
212 Candler Library

Instructors:
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and by appointment

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and by appointment

Content: The course takes an interdisciplinary and comparative approach to the national cinemas of Turkey, Egypt, India, Israel and Iran. In this course we will investigate how the various national film industries represent and encode questions of national identity, politics and society. Discussions will center upon themes such as marginality and the other, political conflicts, love and questions of cinematic genres.

The films will be analyzed as cinematic “texts,” and with an awareness that they are works of particular auteurs, but they will be especially set within the context of the particular national cinema to which they belong, and the political and cultural values they reflect. As such, reading will provide background information on the history and politics, as well as the cinema history, of the countries to be covered.

Goals: By the end of this course, you will be able to “read” and analyze a film in writing for the political and cultural values it encodes. Students will gain a general knowledge of the history of several major countries of the Middle East and South Asia and of the history of cinema in those countries. Students will gain an understanding of the images and ideas that constitute the building blocks with which national identity is constructed and imagined in each of these countries.

Required Texts  (Shohat in MESAS Dept.; Tapper and Virdi in Emory Bookstore)


**Course Requirements**

- No prerequisites. All students are expected to attend class regularly and participate in class discussions and activities.

- **Films** There will be a mandatory weekly screening every Wednesday evening (7:00-9:00pm) and a subsequent discussion on Thursday during class time. This discussion will be led by a couple of students, appointed in advance. In addition, students will submit five 2-page analyses of films shown in class on the following Tuesdays:
  - 3 February
  - 17 February
  - 2 March
  - 30 March
  - 13 April

- **Independent Project** Students will select a film from a list that will be distributed by the instructors. They will view the film on their own and complete the following assignments:
  - Prepare a bibliography relevant to the film and issues of national identity. This assignment is due **March 16, 2004**.
  - Students will present an eight-minute analysis of the film that they watched on their own, showing how this film relates to issues of national identity. This presentation will take place on **April 20, 2004**.
  - Write a final ten-page paper on the basis of the bibliography and the presentation. The paper is due on **April 29, 2004**.

- **Tests** There will be two tests, on **February 24, 2004** and **April 15, 2004**, which will evaluate factual knowledge and skills of film analysis.

**Composition of Final Grade**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film analyses</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bibliographical assignment</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tests</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**Absence**: Attendance in class is required. Absences can be excused for medical reasons (with a note from your doctor or health service), or for participation in official school functions (with a note from the Dean). Three (3) unexcused absences will lower your final grade by one-half letter grade; six unexcused absences will lower your grade by one full letter, and so forth.
**Cell Phones** must be turned off before entering the Classroom.

**Honor Code**
The Emory College Honor Code is in force at all times in this class.
See [http://www.emory.edu/COLLEGE/students/honor.html](http://www.emory.edu/COLLEGE/students/honor.html) (esp. Article 4)

Tentative schedule:

**Thursday, January 15**
Introduction

**Tuesday, January 20**
**Guest Lecture:** Prof. Matthew Bernstein, Film Studies, “Film and National Identity”
**Readings:** Bernstein, *Visions of the East*, pp. 1-18; Graeme Turner, “Film, Culture and Ideology” in *Film as Social Practice*, pp.151-86.

**Wednesday, January 21**

**Thursday, January 22**
Turkey – History and Cinema
Discussion of *Yol*

**Tuesday, January 27**
**Egypt** – History and Cinema
**Readings:** Al-Sayyid Marsoy, pp. 82-145

**Wednesday, January 28**

**Thursday, January 29**
Discussion of *Terrorism and Kebab*

**Tuesday, February 3**
Representation of gender and sexuality in Middle East cinema
**Readings:** Shohat, pp. 197-216
**Film Analysis #1 is due**

**Wednesday, February 4**
**FILM:** *Yossi and Jagger*, dir. Eytan Fox (2002).
Thursday, February 5  
Discussion of Yossi and Jagger  

Tuesday, February 10  
Israel – History and Cinema  
Readings: Shapiro, pp 78-98; Reich/Kieval, pp. 5-63.

Wednesday, February 11  
FILM: Sallah, dir., Ephraim Kishon (1965)

Thursday, February 12  
Discussion of Sallah  
Readings: Shohat, pp. 115-55.

Tuesday, February 17  
Representation of the Arab in Israeli cinema  
Readings: Goldscheider, pp. 65-85.  
Film Analysis #2 is due

Wednesday, February 18  
FILM: A Trumpet in the Wadi,  
dir. Lina and Silva Chaplin (2001)

Thursday, February 19  
Discussion of A Trumpet in the Wadi  

Tuesday, February 24  
Representation of the immigrant in Israeli cinema  
Readings: Goldscheider, pp. 43-64.  
Test 1

Wednesday, February 25  
FILM: A Late Marriage, dir. Dover Koshashvili (2002)

Thursday, February 26  
Discussion of Late Marriage  
Readings: Shohat, pp. 53-56.

Tuesday, March 2  
India – History and Cinema  
Readings: Subramanyam, pp. 36-59; Virdi, pp. 1-59.  
Film Analysis #3 is due

Wednesday, March 3  
FILM: Shree 420, dir. Raj Kapoor (1955)

Thursday, March 4  
Discussion of Shree 420  
Readings: Virdi, pp. 87-120.

Tuesday, March 16  
Guest Lecture: Prof. Rakesh Ranjan, Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies. “Multi-ethnic, multi-lingual India”  
Readings: Virdi, pp. 121-144; Vasudevan, pp. 99-121.
Bibliographical Assignment is Due

Wednesday, March 17  
**FILM:** *Bombay*, dir. Mani Ratnam (1995)

Thursday, March 18  
Discussion of *Bombay*  
**Readings:** Virdi, pp. 60-86.  
[http://www.anitanair.net/pages/profiles-mr.htm](http://www.anitanair.net/pages/profiles-mr.htm)  

Tuesday, March 23  
Indian Diaspora  
**Readings:** Rajadhyaksha, pp. 267-96.

Wednesday, March 24  
**FILM:** *Bend It Like Beckham*, dir. Gurinder Chadha (2002)

Thursday, March 25  
Discussion of *Bend It Like Beckham*  
**Readings:** Indian Diaspora in U.K. and U.S.  
[http://indiandiaspora.nic.in/diasporapdf/chapter10.pdf](http://indiandiaspora.nic.in/diasporapdf/chapter10.pdf)  

Tuesday, March 30  
Iran – History and Cinema  
**Film Analysis #4 is due**

Wednesday, March 31  
**FILM:** *Dead End*, dir. Parviz Sayyad (1978)

Thursday, April 1  
Discussion of *Dead End*  

Tuesday, April 6  
The Iranian Revolution  

Wednesday, April 7  
**FILM:** *Bashu*, dir. Bahram Bayzaee (1988)

Thursday, April 8  
Multi-ethnic Iran  
Discussion of *Bashu*  
Tuesday, April 13  Gender. “Divorce Iranian Style”  
Film Analysis #5 is due

Wednesday, April 14  FILM: Leila, dir. Dariush Mehrjui (1996)

Thursday, April 15  Discussion of Leila  
Test 2

Tuesday, April 20  Presentations I

Wednesday, April 21  FILM: Color of Paradise, dir. Majid Majidi (1999)

Thursday, April 22  Short discussion of Color of Paradise  
Presentations II

Thursday, April 29  Final Paper is Due

Selected Bibliography


**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY (CONTINUED)**


**Filmography**

**Arab Cinema**

**Indian Cinema**

* Bhumika, dir. Shyam Benegal (1976)
* Manthan, dir. Shyam Benegal (1976)
* *Making of the Mahatama*, dir. Shyam Benegal (1995)
* Gumrah (Deception), dir. B.R. Chopra (1963)
* Pyaasa (the thirsty one), dir. Guru Dutt (1957)
* C.I.D., dir. Guru Dutt (1956)
* Satyam, Shivam, Sundaram, dir. Raj Kapoor
* Sangam, dir. Raj Kapoor
* Pather Panchali, dir. Satyajit Ray (1955)
* Mahanagar, dir. Satyajit Ray (1963)
* Aradhana (Prayer), dir. Shakti Samanta (1969)
* 36 Chowringhee Lane, dir. Aparna Sen (1981)

**Iranian Cinema**

* Downpour (Ragbar), dir. Bahram Beizai (1975)
* The Travellers (Mosaferan) dir. Bahram Beizai (1992)
* Tall Shadows of the Wind, dir. Bahman Farmanara (1978)
* Taste of Cherries, dir. Abbas Kiarostami (1997)
* The Wind will Carry us Away, dir. Abbas Kiarostami (1999)
* Qaysar, dir. Masud Kimia’i (1969)
* The Deer, dir. Masud Kimia’i (1975)
* Children of Heaven, dir. Majid Majidi (1997)
* Baran, dir. Majid Majidi (2001)
* Time of Innocence (Nun o goldun), dir. Mohsen Makhmalbaf (1996)
* Gabbeh, dir. Mohsen Makhmalbaf (1996)
* The Apple (Sib), dir. Samira Makhmalbaf
* The Cow, dir. Dariush Mehrjui (1969)
* Mr. Halu, dir. Dariush Mehrjui (1970)
* Hamoon dir. Dariush Mehrjui (1990)
The Runner, dir. Amir Naderi (1985)
The Mission, dir. Parviz Sayyad (1983, USA)
Checkpoint, dir. Parviz Sayyad (1987, USA)

Israeli/Palestinian Cinema

Sallah Shabati, dir. Ephraim Kishon (1964)
Wedding in Galilee, dir. Michel Khleifi (1987)
Midsummer Blues, dir. ???

Turkish Cinema

The Herd (Sürü), dir. Yilmaz Güney (1978)