

ETHN 101: Ethnic Images in Film
Fall 2016
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:00-6:20pm
Warren Lecture Hall 2111

Instructor: Ashvin R. Kini, Ph.D.

Email: akini@ucsd.edu

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1-2pm, Cross-Cultural Center (2nd floor, Price Center East)

Thursdays 2:30-3:30pm, 252 Social Science building

Teaching Assistants: Maisam Alomar (malomar@ucsd.edu)

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This course offers an introduction to the study of race and ethnicity in film. In addition to critically analyzing how various racialized groups have been represented in cinema, we will also consider the ways in which indigenous peoples and people of color have enacted their own cinematic practices that challenge, critique, and/or subvert dominant forms of cinematic representation.

Texts

All readings will be available for download through our course TritonEd website.

All films will be screened, at least partially, in lecture. Students are responsible for completing viewings of any films that we do not finish in class on their own. All films are on reserve at Geisel Library and will be available for online streaming through the library reserves website.

Assignments, Grading, and Course Policies

Section attendance, participation, and performance 20%

Attendance in both lecture and section is mandatory. More than two absences from section will negatively affect your course grade. See the section syllabus provided by your TA for further section policies.

Response Papers 20%

Students will write four response papers (1-1.5 pages each) on the assigned films and readings. More information will be provided before the first response paper deadline.

Critical Essay 25%

One 5-7 page critical essay due Week 7. Prompts will be provided in advance of the deadline.

Final Exam 35%

Friday 12/9, 7-10pm, Location TBA. Details to follow.

Late work will be accepted only in the case of verifiable emergencies or if arranged with your TA *prior* to the due date.

Course Schedule (subject to change)

Week 0: Course Introduction

Week 1: Race, Representation, and Cinema

- Film: *Stuart Hall: Representation and the Media* (Dir. Sut Jhally, 1997)

- Timothy Corrigan, “Beginning to Think, Preparing to Watch, and Starting to Write”
- Ella Shohat and Robert Stam, “The Imperial Imaginary”

Week 2: Cinema and Stereotype

- Film: *Ethnic Notions* (Dir. Marlon Riggs, 1987)
- Melvyn Stokes, excerpt from *D.W. Griffith's The Birth of a Nation: A History of "The Most Controversial Motion Picture of All Time"*
- Ella Shohat and Robert Stam, “Stereotype, Realism, and the Struggle Over Representation”

Week 3: Theorizing Spectatorship and Black Women's Sexuality

Response paper #1 due in lecture 10/11

- Film: *The Watermelon Woman* (Dir. Cheryl Dunye, 1996)
- bell hooks, “The Oppositional Gaze: Black Female Spectators”
- Laura Sullivan, “Chasing Fae: *The Watermelon Woman* and Black Lesbian Possibility”

Week 4: Race and Hollywood's Golden Age—The Western as case study

Response paper #2 due in lecture 10/18

- Film: *The Searchers* (Dir. John Ford, 1956)
- Ken Nolley, “The Representation of Conquest: John Ford and the Hollywood Indian, 1939-1964”
- Arlene Hui, “The Racial Frontier in John Ford's *The Searchers*”

Week 5: Interventions of Native Cinema

- Film: *Smoke Signals* (Dir. Chris Eyre, 1998)
- Joanna Hearne, “‘Indians Watching Indians’: Speaking to and from Cinema History”
- Joanna Hearne, “‘Dances with Salmon’: Reading *Smoke Signals*”

Week 6: Identities on the Borderlands

Response paper #3 due in lecture 11/1

- Film: *Lone Star* (Dir. John Sayles, 1996)
- Julianne Burton-Carvajal, “Oedipus Tex/Oedipus Mex: Triangulations of Paternity, Race, and Nation in John Sayles's *Lone Star*”
- Rosa Linda Fregoso, “Gender, Multiculturalism, and the Missionary Position on the Borderlands”

Week 7: Third (World) Cinema and Decolonization

Critical Essay due in lecture 11/18

- Film: *The Battle of Algiers* (Dir. Gillo Pontecorvo, 1966)
- Robert Stam and Ella Shohat, “The Third Worldist Film”

Week 8: Screening History, Memory and War

- Film: *History and Memory* (Dir. Rea Tajiri, 1991)
- Marita Sturken, “Absent Images of Memory: Remembering and Reenacting the Japanese Internment”

Week 9: Bollywood's War on Terror

Response paper #4 due in lecture 11/22

- Film: *My Name is Khan* (Dir. Karan Johar, 2010)
- Muneer Ahmad, "Homeland Insecurities: Racial Violence the Day after September 11"

No class Thursday 11/24, Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 10: Bollywood's War on Terror (cont.)

- Inderpal Grewal, "Transnational America: Race, Gender, and Citizenship after 9/11"

Final exam: Friday 12/9, 7-10pm, Location TBA

Majoring or Minor in Ethnic Studies

Many students take an Ethnic Studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a college general education requirement. Often students have taken many ETHN courses out of interest, yet do not realize how close they are to a major, a minor, or even a double major. An Ethnic Studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law, education, medicine, public health, social work, counseling, public policy, and many other careers. If you would like information about the Ethnic Studies major or minor, please contact:

Daisy Rodríguez, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor

858-534-3277 or d1rodriguez@ucsd.edu or visit www.ethnicstudies.ucsd.edu