

ETHN 101 **Ethnic Images in Film**
T/Thur 3:30-4:45
Pepper Canyon 109

UCSD Spring 2010

Professor: **Roshanak Kheshti**
Email: rkheshti@ucsd.edu
Office Hours: **Tuesdays and**
Wednesdays 11:30am-1pm
or by appointment

Location: **231 Social Science Building**

TAs:

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Description:

As objects that circulate in transnational social and commodity networks, films project ideas about the *other* and the self. Offering escape, titillation, information and exotification, films are meaningful when they (re)present the worlds audiences want to see. In this course we read films as social texts examining their systems of gendered, ethnic, racial, sexual and national meaning. Through film theory we will additionally examine film spectatorship and the cultural codes attached to looking and perception. Though we will cover a vast array of genres we will highlight so-called "third cinema" and "Iranian cinema" as case studies.

Texts:

Course materials available through e-reserve

Course Requirements:

Attendance (20% of final grade)

Attendance and participation will constitute 20% of the student's overall course grade. Presence and preparedness are key aspects to the successful fulfillment of requirements for this course. Because this course meets a total of twenty times, more than two absences will absolutely not be tolerated. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to keep up with the notes, films and assignment submission schedule. It is advised that you network with peers on this matter. If you miss more than two classes ½ a letter grade will be deducted from your final grade.

Films

Films function as texts in this class. You are expected to know the filmic materials as well as the print ones. Note taking is encouraged see the handout "Preparing to Watch and Preparing to Write." It is your responsibility to screen any film you miss at the Film and Video Library at Geisel on your own time.

Section (15% of final grade)

All students are responsible for attending and participating in section. More than two absences in section will result in a failure in section.

Reflection Papers (20% of final grade)

Each student is responsible for submitting a total of **7** reading reflection papers that are no less than one page (double-spaced, 12pt. font) and no more than one and a half pages in length. Reflection papers are opportunities for you to raise questions or issues about the readings, make connections between various readings, apply the readings to current events, etc. Reflection papers are **not** opinion papers **nor** are they summaries of the readings. They are spaces for exploration and inquiry that could also contribute to your final paper. These papers allow me to follow your progress with the materials over the course of the quarter. Each reflection should have your name and the reflection number written at the top.

Students with last names beginning with the letters A-L submit reflections on Tuesday classes beginning week 2. Students with last names beginning with the letters M-Z submit reflections on Thursday classes beginning with week 3.

Midterm Paper (20% of final grade)

Each student must submit one 4-5 page midterm paper at the **beginning** of lecture on the due-date. Papers will not be accepted from students arriving to lecture late on this day. Expect a prompt with details on paper topic and page length handed out no less than two weeks before due-date.

Final Paper (25% of final grade)

Each student must submit one 7-8 page final paper by the due-date (the regularly scheduled exam time during finals week). Expect a prompt with details on paper topic and page length handed out no less than two weeks before due-date.

Week 1

March 30, 2010

Course introductions

Film: *Representation and the Media*

April 1, 2010

Harman, Gilbert "Semiotics and the Cinema: Metz and Wollen,"

Film in section: *Battle of Algiers* (first half)

Week 2

April 6, 2010

Stam, Robert and Louise Spence "Colonialism, Racism, and Representation: An Introduction"

*Students with last names beginning with A-L begin hand in first reflection paper

April 8, 2010

Stam, Robert "Beyond Third Cinema: the aesthetics of Hybridity" in *Rethinking Third Cinema*

Film in section: *Battle of Algiers* (second half seen in section))

Week 3

April 13, 2010

Gabriel, Teshome "Towards a Critical Theory of Third World Films"

April 15, 2010

Gaines, Jane "White Privilege and Looking Relations: Race and Gender

*students with last names beginning with M-Z hand in first reflection paper

Film: *Born in Flames*

Week 4

April 20, 2010

Trinh T. Minh-Ha "Questions of Images and Politics"

Recommended:

Mulvey, Laura "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema."

April 22, 2010

Chow, Rey "Visuality, modernity, and Primitive Passions"

Film: *Reassemblage*

Week 5

April 27, 2010

Williams, Linda "Film Bodies: Gender, Genre and Excess"

April 29, 2010

Shohat, Ella "Post-Third-Worldist Culture: Gender, Nation and the Cinema"

Film: *Silences of the Palace*

Week 6

May 4, 2010

***Midterm Paper prompt handed out**

Sullivan, Laura. "Chasing Fae: The Watermelon Woman and Black Lesbian Possibility"

May 6, 2010

Mercer, Kobena "Dark and Lovely Too: Black Gay Men in Independent Film"

Film: *Watermelon Woman*

Week 7

May 11, 2010

Butler, Judith "Gender is Burning: Questions of Appropriation and Subversion"

May 13, 2010

Miller-Young, Mireille. "Hardcore Desire: Black Women Laboring in Porn, Colorlines Magazine,"

Film: *Paris is Burning*

Week 8

May 18, 2010

Naficy, Hamid 'Theorizing "Third World" Film Spectatorship: The case of Iran and Iranian Cinema.'

May 20, 2010

Dabashi, Hamid. 2001. "In the Speculum of the Other: The Feminine Figure of Modernity" in *Close Up: Iranian Cinema Past, Present and Future*. New York: Verso.

Film: *Offside*

Week 9

*** Final paper prompt handed out**

May 25, 2010

Kheshti, Roshanak. "Cross-Dressing and Gender (Tres)Passing: The Transgender Move as a Site of Agential Potential in the New Iranian Cinema"

Film: *Baran*

May 27, 2010

Moallem, Minoo "The Sacralization of Politics and the Desacrilization of Religion"

Week 10**June 1, 2010**

Ginsburg, Faye "Screen Memories and Entangled Technologies: Resignifying Indigenous Lives"

June 3, 2010

Huhndorf, Shari "Atanarjuat, The Fast Runner: Culture, History, and Politics in Inuit Media"

Film: *Atanarjuat*

Final due June 7, 2010