INTS/FILM 215 • Global Cinema

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Texas A&M University
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Class meeting: MWF 9:10-10:00
RICH 106

Course description
History and theory of global cinema; historical, socio-political, national and international contexts of film production and reception; transnational film.

Prerequisites
None.

Learning outcomes
Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:
• Identify major directors and film movements in global cinema;
• Interpret and analyze thematic and formal aspects of visual communication in film form; and
• Formulate the relationship between national and transnational cinema and the socio-political contexts of cultural production and cultural globalization.

Core Curriculum objectives
• Critical Thinking: creative thinking; innovation; inquiry; and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information
• Communication: effective development and interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
• Teamwork: ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
• Social Responsibility: intercultural competence; knowledge of civil responsibility; and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Required course materials
• All other course readings will be available through eCampus.
• All films will be available for digital streaming through mediamatrix.tamu.edu.

Course requirements and evaluation
4 Exams (20% each) 80%
Group project 20%

Grading scale: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; 0-59 = F

Exams: 4 exams will be given during the semester, three during class and one during the final exam period (see dates on syllabus). Exams are not cumulative. Exams will test material covered in screenings, readings, lectures, and class discussions, and will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Students must bring a full page scantron sheet and #2 pencils to each exam. Exams cannot be made up except in the case of a university-approved excused absence.

Group project: Students will be assigned to 4-5 person groups by the end of the second week of classes. Each group will watch and analyze a film, selected from a list of recommended films provided by the instructor. These recommended films are either from one of the directors studied in the class, another
example of a film that engages with one of the course topics, or in some other way related to the primary films studied. Groups will be provided with discussion questions for the film, which they will work through together. Groups will submit a written report summarizing their group discussions and analyses. The report must include film stills as illustration of their findings. A detailed grading rubric will be distributed by the end of the second week of classes.

Absences
The University views class attendance as the responsibility of an individual student. Attendance is essential to complete the course successfully. University rules related to excused and unexcused absences are located on-line at http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07.

Academic integrity

Disabilities
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation please contact Disability Services, currently located in the Disability Services building at the Student Services at White Creek complex on west campus, or call 979-845-1637. For additional information, visit http://disability.tamu.edu.

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Semester Calendar
Complete all assigned readings and view all films prior to Tuesday class meeting of week in which they are assigned.

Week 1
Intro to course; Foundational concepts
Reading:

Week 2: France-Russia
Film: Radu Mihaileanu, Le concert [The concert] (2009)
Reading:
Week 3: Denmark-Czechoslovakia
Film: Lars von Trier, Dancer in the Dark (2000).
Reading:

Week 4: India-Europe
TUESDAY – EXAM #1
Readings:

Week 5: India
Film: Gurinder Chadha, Bride and Prejudice (2004).
Readings:

Week 6: Germany-Turkey
Film: Fatih Akin, Crossing the Bridge. The sound of Istanbul (2005).
Reading:

Week 7: Italy – Russia
TUESDAY – EXAM #2
Film: Giuseppe Tornatore. La sconosciuta (2006)
Readings:

Week 8: U.S. - Middle East
Film: Alejandro González Iñárritu, Babel (2007)
Readings:
3) Transnational Feminism in film and media, pp. 1-18.
Week 9
Film: Kathryn Bigelow, Zero Dark Thirty (2012)
Readings:
“Definitions of Terrorism, Genocide, and State Terrorism”; “Definitions of sex and gender” 3-6; “Media framing: Hillary Clinton and the Bin Laden Raid”: 84-86; Selection of articles reviewing Zero Dark Thirty

Week 10: Africa-Italy
Film: Cristina Comencini, Bianco e Nero [White and Black](2008)
Reading:

Week 11
Film: Ousmane Sembene, Xala (1974)
Readings:
1) Transnational Cinema: pp. 27-38

Week 12: Kenya
Readings:
2) Transnational Cinema: pp. 97-108

Week 13
ITALY
“Basta Berlusconi [Berlusconi enough]:” A transmedia-transnational case of carnival?
News clips from YouTube – more selections TBA
“Femen protesting Berlusconi Bordel Game” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1UXSUAeEiw

TUNISIA
Amina Tyler: A transmedia(trans)-transnational case of temporary stardom?

Week 14: Wrap-up and review

EXAM #4 to be held during the final exam date/time set for this class in the published schedule on the academic calendar.