

Department of English & Writing Studies
Film Studies Program

Film 2191F (001)
Bollywood Cinema: Re-Viewing India in the 21st century
Fall 2024

Instructor: Anmol Dutta

Course Description

Bollywood, the mainstream Hindi-language film industry in India, is regarded as one of the world's largest and most prolific film industries. In this course, we aim to look at narratives in 21st century Bollywood films which dismantle and interrogate mainstream representations of India. In analyzing representations of gender, religion, caste, class, the diaspora, and the nation, we will understand the role that mainstream Hindi cinema plays in nation-building and identity-formation.

Class Participation 10%

Students are expected to meaningfully participate in classroom discussions—it is about the quality, and not the quantity of the participation that counts. If participation within the classroom space is challenging, contributing to discussions through alternative mediums like classroom notes to the instructor will also account towards class participation.

By "classroom notes to the instructor," I mean that students who do not feel comfortable to verbally participate, can hand me their participation-comments in a note at the end of the class. Along with the written participation comment, students will provide their name and student number information. These notes are not to be returned to the student with the grade; rather, they will be graded in similar vein to verbal class participation.

Scene Analysis - 20%

600 words. DUE before Reading Week on Brightspace: Oct 12, 11.59 pm

Students will write a 600-word scene analysis before the Reading Week. This assignment will be a close reading analysis of the scene: discussing the mise-en-scene, and its significance in relation to that week's readings and/ or classroom discussion. Students will be given the option of **three** scenes from the syllabus, out of which they will analyze one.

This assignment is meant to give the students a chance to be creative with the material, respond to, and analyze the scene by taking a stand on what speaks most to them.

Group Presentation 15%

Students will be assigned groups of 3 or 4 (depending on the class size) by the instructor. Starting Week 4, the last segment of the class will be reserved for **two** 15-minute group presentations. Each week, these **two** groups will present their ideas on the assigned Theme A and Theme B of the week: for example, Group 1 will present on Theme A and Group 2 will present on the Theme B. These themes for discussion will be made available and discussed thoroughly on the first day of class.

NOTE: Each group is required to consult me about their presentation, in the week prior to their presentation: so, for instance, if your group is designated to present in Week 4, you are required to consult with me and inform me of your discussion topics in Week 3 (during my regular office hours or by appointment).

Students are also required to send me their PowerPoint presentation/ a short paper (if you are not using PowerPoint) on the day of their presentation (after class). This will help me in grading the group presentations more efficiently.

This assessment might sound daunting, but I am certain that it will be a generative, meaningful classroom exercise for you and your peers. The point of this assignment is that you will hear a lot about what I have to say in class—but this presentation gives me and your peers the opportunity to engage with *your* voice—what it is that you have to say.

As you start preparing, I am very happy to field any questions or concerns that you may have. Further expectations and the rubric for this assessment will be discussed on the first day of class.

Please ensure that all your written work is **submitted as a Word attachment on OWL**. The

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Week 4. Sept 26. Reimagining Religion & Bollywood Song and Dance

****Group presentations start this week, and take place weekly hereafter****

There will be 2 discussion topics each week for the 2 groups presenting that week. They will be made available on the first day of class.

Viewing: *Gully Boy* (2019)

Readings:

- Kalyani Chadha and Annadan P. Kavoori. "Exoticized, Marginalized, Demonized: The Muslim 'Other' in Indian Cinema" in *Global Bollywood*. 2011.
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