

BOLLYWOOD AND BEYOND

An Introduction to Popular Indian Cinema

ENGL 291 / Instructor: Prakash Younger

Lectures MW: 8:30AM- 9:45AM / Screenings: M: 6:30PM- 9:30PM

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The course provides an introduction to Indian cinema, with a focus on popular Hindi cinema from WWII to the present. For over fifty years "Bollywood" has dominated India's domestic market and made a huge impact in markets and cultures around the world: China and other Asian countries, the former Soviet Union, Africa, the Middle East, Greece, and the diasporic audiences of the Caribbean, the United Kingdom and North America. The keys to this global popularity lie in the specific contexts - aesthetic, cultural, social, and historical - within which Bollywood films are produced and received. Understanding Bollywood cinema requires a journey through the films into Indian aesthetics, culture, society and history, a journey that will provide you with a unique set of perspectives on the contemporary world.

All readings for this course will be available in a Course Reader. You are required to bring hard copies of the readings thoroughly marked up with your responses, questions, topics for discussion, etc. to each seminar session so that you are prepared to contribute to class discussion.

Films to be screened may include:

Bombay, Our City (Anand Patwardhan, 1985, 82m), *Mother India* (Mehboob Khan, 1957, 172m) *Shree 420 / Mr. Scam-Artist* (Raj Kapoor, 1955, 168m), *Pakeezah / The Pure One* (Kamal Amrohi, 1971, 146m), *Jewel Thief* (Vijay Anand, 1967, 168m), *Meghe Dhaka Tara / The Cloud-Capped Star* (Ritwik Ghatak, 1960, 122m), *Deewar / The Wall* (Yash Chopra, 1975, 174m) *Sholay / Flames of the Sun* (Ramesh Sippy, 1975, 188m), *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge / The Brave One Gets the Bride* (Aditya Chopra, 1995, 192m), *Earth* (Deepa Mehta, 1998, 102m) *Lage Raho Munnabhai* (Rajkumar Hirani, 2006, 144m)