IRANIAN POST-1979 CINEMA
Fall 2015
Dr. CLAUDIA YAGHOOBI

Class Hours: T/R 3:30-4:45pm
Office Location: A&S 3-08
Office Hours: M/W 2-3:30pm
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Although Western films from Hollywood have dominated the world's cinema screens for most of film history, films produced in many other regions of the world such as the Middle East have much to offer beyond Hollywood. In the United States, however, we have few chances to see many of these diverse films produced in the Middle East. In this course, we will examine the distinct characteristics of post-revolutionary Iranian cinema (post-1979), which has been a regular feature (and winner) at major film festivals around the globe. We will examine the many different ways the medium has been used to incorporate political and social perspectives, challenge the government, and document the lives and struggles of Iranian people. Among the many topics that we will explore are Iranian culture and society, the importance of family unit, gender politics, women's social, economic and political roles, issues of ethnicity, attitudes about faith and religion, constructions of masculinity, role of children, ethics and morality, documentary vs. fiction, and various schools of realism in Iranian cinema. Each week, we will watch a film by an Iranian director and each film will be contextualized by readings as listed on the schedule below.

COURSE OUTCOMES

By the end of the semester, students are expected to develop the following core competencies:

1. Discuss and define the basic terms and concepts of Iranian Cinema.
2. Discuss and evaluate the socio-cultural, political and gender and sexual issues inherent in this particular time period (post-1979 to present).
3. Distinguish the basic theories of Iranian cinema.
4. Analyze the form and meaning of each film in their weekly papers, group presentations and final projects.
5. Develop an appreciation for the fact that Iranian films can communicate across cultural, political, and linguistic borders.
6. Develop ability to formulate opinions and take positions, and therefore write critical analysis on not only the films under discussion in class, but also on other films more generally.
REQUIRED TEXTS


COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

❖ Attendance, Class Participation, and Discussion Leading (100 points): class discussions and activities will give you the opportunity to discuss the material. Bring your books and any additional assignments to each class. Keep up with the readings and be ready to discuss the material. Class participation means more than physical attendance. During the semester, each student will be assigned once to lead discussion on one of the readings of the class.

❖ Reflection papers (120 points): All students are expected to turn in a two-page essay (no more than 2 pages) on the director whose work was discussed in class. You are required to pick a theme, 2 scenes from the movie related to that theme, analyze the scenes in detail. You must have an introduction, thesis statement, topic sentences, 2 body paragraphs and conclusion. You will combine your observations of the films with at least one of the assigned readings related to that particular director. Please provide in-text MLA citations for all the texts you use.

Dates to upload your papers:
September 8: Dariush Mehrjui
September 15: Abbas Kiarostami
September 22: Jafar Panahi
October 8: Mohsen Makhmalbaf
October 20: Rakhshan Bani E’temad
October 27: Tahmineh Milani
November 3: Behrouz Afkhami
November 10: Asghar Farhadi

❖ Group Presentations (100 points): Groups of 2-3 students will be responsible for a presentation on a particular director. Read the assigned essays several times and take good notes. Look up the director’s films on web and find appropriate clips for your presentation. Now that you have the required information about that particular director, write a film script with dialogue, setting, location, etc. for a brief scenario. This has to be relevant to the themes and techniques that your director uses. One way to approach this is to re-write the ending or specific scene from one of the films of that director. Then, practice performing that scenario with your group members. In class, you will present a brief background about the director and his themes and techniques. Then, you will role-play your scenario.

❖ The Three Minute Paper (100): This is a highly effective technique for checking your progress, both in understanding the material and in reacting to course material. Every day, I will ask you to take out a blank sheet of paper; I will pose a question (either specific or open-ended) about the readings of the day, and give you three minutes to respond. This tells me whether or
not you are viewing the material in the way you envisioned. I will ask you to evaluate each other’s papers.

- **Daily Journal (80 points):** On November 12th and 17th in class, I will give you a topic/film and I will ask you to find and discuss reports of that specific topic/film in popular media on themes relevant to course material. This allows for more in-depth discussion of or reaction to course material. You will need your computer to do an online research.

- **Quiz/Test Questions (50 points) – due on November 10:** I will ask you to become actively involved in creating the final paper prompts. This exercise will be assigned for homework and evaluated in class on November 10th. This will make you think more deeply about the course material and explore major themes, comparison of views presented, applications, and other higher-order thinking skills. Further, I will require that you discuss the merits of a sample of questions submitted. You might discuss several aspects of two different questions on the same material including degree of difficulty, effectiveness in assessing their learning, proper scope of questions, and so forth.

- **Final paper 1800-1850 words (100 points) – due on December 3** – you will receive a few prompt questions to pick one and write your paper.

### CLASS POLICIES

- Attendance is mandatory, as is punctuality. More than three absences will lower your total grade by half a grade; excused absence allowed in case of serious medical condition if verified by note from physician. More than six absences will result in a failing grade for the semester.
- Late papers or e-mailed assignments will not be accepted.
- If you wish to discuss your grades, please meet with me during my office hours. Grades will not be discussed in class or through e-mail. Feel free to utilize my office hours to discuss papers.
- You are required to bring your books and assigned readings to class. You may also have them on your computer.
- To pass the course, you need to submit your final research paper. Not submitting it equals fail.
- You are not allowed to use Wi-Fi during the class unless otherwise advised. If you use
Wi-Fi and/or are on websites not relevant to our class such as Facebook, you will be asked to leave the classroom.

- Respect others, do not talk when someone else is talking, do not offend others by your language (be mindful that others may be of a different class, gender, religion, race, or ability set than you).
- Homework assignments should be typed, 12 point, Times New Roman font; 1-inch margins; double-spaced; no late assignments.
- You may use e-Books, but for your papers I need you to cite the page number from a paper copy.
- Please turn off your cellphones and store them in your bags or you will be asked to leave the classroom.

### CLASS SCHEDULE AND ACTIVITIES

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<th>Week One</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>Tuesday 8/18: Introductions</strong></td>
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| **Thursday 8/20: Islamic Revolution of 1979**  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FfrJ2rBobGs |

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<th>Week Two</th>
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| **Tuesday 8/25: Sexual Ideology in Modern Iran**  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQBYqURaaLo |
| **Thursday 8/27: Iranian Cinema** |

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<th>Week Three</th>
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| **Tuesday 9/1:**  
Reading from required texts:  
Reading on D2L:  
**Wednesday 9/2:**  
**Reading:**  
Dariush Mehrjui, *Gav [The Cow]* (100 minutes)  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GrY1qvvRb0o |
Thursday 9/3:
Reading on D2L:

Week Four

Tuesday 9/8:
Group Presentation: Dariush Mehrjui

Wednesday 9/9: Arts and Sciences 3-66, 5:00-6:50pm
Screening:
Abbas Kiarostami, Taste of Cherry (95 minutes)

Thursday 9/10:
Reading from required Text:
Reading on D2L:

Week Five

Tuesday 9/15:
Group Presentation: Abbas Kiarostami

Wednesday 9/16: Arts and Sciences 3-66, 5:00-6:50pm
Screening:
Jafar Panahi, Circle (90 minutes)

Thursday 9/17:
Reading on D2L:

Week Six

Tuesday 9/22
Group Presentation: Jafar Panahi
Thursday 9/24:
Screening:
Mohsen Makhmalbaf, *A Moment of Innocence* (78 minutes)

Week Seven

Tuesday 9/29:
Reading on D2L:

Reading from required text:

Wednesday 9/30: Arts and Sciences 3-66, 5:00-6:50pm
Screening:
Rakhshan Bani E’temad, *The May Lady* (88 minutes)

Thursday 10/1:
Readings from required texts:

Readings on D2L:

Week Eight

Tuesday 10/6:
Readings on D2L:

Thursday 10/8:
Group Presentation: Mohsen Makhmalbaf

Week Nine

Tuesday 10/13: Fall Break
**Wednesday 10/14:** Arts and Sciences 3-66, 5:00-6:50pm  
Screening:  
Tahmineh Milani, *The Hidden Half* (103 minutes)

**Thursday 10/15:**  
Readings from required texts:  

Readings on D2L:  

**Week Ten**

**Tuesday 10/20:**  
Group Presentation on Bani E’temad

**Wednesday 10/21:** Arts and Sciences 3-66, 5:00-6:50pm  
Screening:  
Behrouz Afkhami, *Showkaran* (Hemlock)

**Thursday 10/22:** discussion of *Hemlock*

**Week Eleven**

**Tuesday 10/27:**  
Group Presentation: Tahmineh Milani

**Wednesday 10/28:** Arts and Sciences 3-66, 5:00-6:50pm  
Screening:  
Asghar Farhadi, *A Separation* (123 minutes)

**Thursday 10/29:**  
Readings on D2L:  
http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2012/01/09/tehran-tales
http://cinema-scope.com/currency/currency-a-separation-asghar-farhadi-iran/
http://www.theguardian.com/film/2011/jun/30/a-separation-review

**Week Twelve**

**Tuesday 11/3:**
Group Presentation: Behrouz Afkhami

**Thursday 11/5:**
Group Presentation: Asghar Farhadi

**Week Thirteen**

**Tuesday 11/10:** Quiz/Test Questions
**Thursday 11/12:** Daily Journal

**Week Fourteen**

**Tuesday 11/17:** Daily Journal
**Thursday 11/19:** Paper Conferences/Workshop

**Week Fifteen**

**Tuesday 11/24:** Paper Conferences/Workshop
**Thursday 11/26:** Thanksgiving Holiday

**Week Sixteen**

**Tuesday 12/1:** Paper Conferences/Workshop

**Thursday 12/3:** No Class
Final papers due online

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**Student Opinion Surveys**
Given the technological sophistication of Georgia College students, the student opinion survey is being delivered through an online process. Your constructive feedback plays an indispensable role in shaping quality education at Georgia College. All responses are completely confidential and your name is not stored with your responses in any way. In addition, instructors will not see any results of the opinion survey until after final grades are submitted to the University. An invitation to complete the online opinion survey is distributed to students near the end of the semester. Your participation in this very important process is greatly appreciated.
Religious Observance Policy
Students are permitted to miss class in observance of religious holidays and other activities observed by a religious group of which the student is a member without academic penalty. Exercising of one’s rights under this policy is subject to the GC Honor Code. Students who miss class in observance of a religious holiday or event are required to make up the coursework missed as a result from the absence. The nature of the make-up assignments and the deadline for completion of such assignments are at the sole discretion of the instructor. Failure to follow the prescribed procedures voids all student rights under this policy.

Assistance for Student Needs Related to Disability
If you have a disability as described by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, you may be eligible to receive accommodations to assist in programmatic and physical accessibility. Disability Services, a unit of the GCSU Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity, can assist you in formulating a reasonable accommodation plan and in providing support in developing appropriate accommodations to ensure equal access to all GCSU programs and facilities. Course requirements will not be waived, but accommodations may assist you in meeting the requirements. For documentation requirements and for additional information, we recommend that you contact Disability Services located in Maxwell Student Union at 478-445-5931 or 478-445-4233.

Academic Honesty
The integrity of students and their written and oral work is a critical component of the academic process. The submission of another’s work as one’s own is plagiarism and will be dealt with using the procedures outlined in the GC Catalog. Remember that allowing another student to copy one’s own work violates standards of academic integrity.

Fire Drills
Fire drills will be conducted annually. In the event of a fire alarm, students will exit the building in a quick and orderly manner through the nearest hallway exit. Learn the floor plan and exits of the building. Do not use elevators. If you encounter heavy smoke, crawl on the floor so as to gain fresh air. Assist disabled persons and others if possible without endangering your own life. Assemble for a head count on the front lawn of main campus or other designated assembly area.

Software Creation
The intellectual property of class assignments and other materials developed using university resources that are commercialized are reviewed under the USG and GC policies to determine ownership and/or payment rights. USG policies can be found at http://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section6/policy/6.3_intellectual_properties/ and GC policies can be found at http://www2.gcsu.edu/policies/overall/intellectual-property-polic.htm

RESOURCES ON IRANIAN CINEMA
Online Articles
http://www.iranchamber.com/cinema/cinema.php
http://www.qantara.de/webcom/show_article.php/_c-544/i.html
http://iranianfilms.net/
http://archive.sensesofcinema.com/contents/festivals/06/38/imagining_iran.html

Women in Iranian cinema:
http://www.iran-bulletin.org/art/CINEMA2.html

Negar Motahedeh on Youtube:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iuoQMEyKmBk

Latest Iranian film festivals
http://www.mfa.org/calendar/sub.asp?key=12&subkey=53
http://www.filmradar.com/calendar/item.php?id=7627

Moghsodloo: film on Iranian Cinema: