

FILM 3015 CINEMA AND NATIONAL IDENTITY (3 credit hours)

Elmira College

SPRING 2025

Required Text:

1. Susan Hayward, *National Cinemas*, 1993, Routledge;
 2. Mette Hjort, Scott Mackenzie, *Cinema and Nation*, 2000, Routledge.
- Supplemental readings will be included to illustrate or expand on textbook readings.

Pre-requisites: None

Course Description

This course explores the intricate relationship between cinema and national identity, examining how films both reflect and shape the ideologies, values, and culture of a nation. Using theoretical frameworks of identity, nationhood, and globalization, students will critically assess how national cinemas represent the collective memory, struggles, and aspirations of specific countries or cultural groups. The course will engage with key topics such as colonialism, diaspora, and transnationalism, as well as the impact of global media flows on national film industries. By studying the thematic and stylistic trends in films from various countries, students will gain a deeper understanding of the ways in which cinema participates in the formation of national consciousness.

Course Objectives and Goals

- Understand the role of cinema in shaping national identity and cultural narratives.
- Critically analyze the ideological and political dimensions of national cinema.
- Identify key themes and trends in the cinema of specific nations or cultural groups.
- Assess the influence of globalization and transnationalism on national film industries.
- Develop a comparative perspective on national cinemas, exploring differences and commonalities across regions.
- Explore the role of film in negotiating issues of ethnicity, class, gender, and race within the national context.
- Analyze how cinema engages with historical memory and the construction of a nation's past.
- Understand the impact of global media and how national cinemas respond to the challenges of cultural homogenization.

Evaluation of Performance

Your grade will be based upon your performance on exams, assignments, and participation.

2 Assignments	10%
2 Quizzes	20%
2 Papers	20%

Presentation	10%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

Grades will be assigned as follows:

A 93% and above	B- 80 - 82%	D+ 67 - 69%
A- 90 - 92%	C+ 77 - 79%	D 63 - 66%
B+ 87 - 89%	C 73 - 76%	D- 60 - 62%
B 83 - 86%	C- 70 - 72%	F 59% or below

Withdrawal Policy: Please see Elmira College Bulletin for information on this policy.

Academic Honesty: Please read the section on Academic Honesty in the [Code of Conduct](#). Briefly, academic dishonesty includes: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism. Ask if you have any questions on whether something constitutes as academic dishonesty. All work must be original and new. Past assignments from current or other courses will not be accepted. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. It will result in zero on the assignment, and a report will be filed with the school. Continued practice will result in failure of the class. Institutional penalties may also apply with repeated acts of academic honesty.

Student Responsibility:

- It is your responsibility to keep track of assignments and due dates.
- You should ask questions concerning assignments and lectures, if you need any clarifications.
- If you are struggling in class, have concerns, and/or unsure about expectations, please stop by during office hours or make an appointment for another time.

Tentative Schedule of Topics

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Materials</u>	<u>Tasks & Evaluations</u>
Introduction to Cinema and National Identity	Chapter 1	
The Sociology of Nationalism	Chapter 2	Assignment 1
Globalization and National Cinema	Chapter 3	
Nationhood in Postcolonial Cinema Screening: <i>The Battle of Algiers</i>	Chapter 4	
Colonialism and Cinema: Representation of the “Other” : Power, Politics, and Representation in National Film	Chapter 5	Quiz 1
Cinema and Historical Memory	Chapter 6	
Diaspora, Exile, and National Cinema	Chapter 7	
Gender and National Cinema Screening: <i>City of God</i>	Chapter 8	Assignment 2
Race, Ethnicity, and Cinema	Chapter 9	
Cinema and Revolution	Chapter 10	

Censorship and State Control of National Cinema	Chapter 11	Midterm Exam
Film Genres and National Identity: Exploration of Genres Unique to National Cinemas (e.g., Bollywood, Jidaigeki, etc.)	Chapter 12	
The Auteur and National Cinema	Chapter 13	
Tensions between Mainstream and Independent Cinema in National Contexts Screening: <i>Pan's Labyrinth</i>	Chapter 14	Paper 1
National Cinema in Europe	Chapter 15	
National Cinema in Asia	Chapter 16	
Latin American Cinema and National Identity	Chapter 17	Paper 2
African Cinema: Postcolonial Identity and Global Influence	Chapter 18	
Hollywood and National Identity Screening: <i>Waltz with Bashir</i>	Chapter 19	Quiz 2
Film as cultural diplomacy	Chapter 20	
Cinematic Representation of War and Conflict	Chapter 21	Presentation
Transnationalism and the Hybridization of National Cinemas	Chapter 22	Final Exam