

Department of English & Writing Studies
Film Studies Program

Reframing National Cinemas
Film 3373 G (001)
Winter 2023

The concept of a national cinema is always implicated in a dialectic of
nation and anti-nation

—Philip Rosen

Instructor : Dr. C.E. Gittings

UC 4414

gittings@uwo.ca (but use OWL Messages for all non-

Course Description

This course will provide students with a rigorous interrogation of national cinema informed by theories of identity, nation, and globalization developed by such figures as Benedict Anderson, Arjun Appadurai, Etienne Balibar, Homi Bhabha, Stuart Hall, bell hooks, and Edward Said. Students will trouble notions of nation as an organic, homogeneous, unitary entity before shifting into a study of ideology and cinematic representations of nation, distribution and the political economies that structure the production of national and transnational cinemas. Readings of the 'national' will be underpinned by understandings of history, class, gender, race and sexuality. Films from various colonial, postcolonial, Indigenous, national and diasporic cinemas will be examined in the context of debates about what constitutes the terrain of national cinema. To this end we will read essays by such leading national cinema scholars as Stephen Crofts, Andrew Higson, Susan Hayward, Marsha Kinder, Ella Shohat, Robert Stam, Philip Rosen, Fernando Solanos and Octavio Getino.

COURSE AIM

To consider the various strategies and contexts through which cultures construct and read the national in national and transnational cinemas

Course Objectives/ Learning Outcomes :

- x Understand "national/transnational cinemas,' and their interrelationships with 'genre,' 'ideology,' 'parody,' 'pastiche,' and 'postmodernism,' " as critical terms in Film Studies and be able to apply these terms effectively to a diverse body of titles in prose and oral discussion
 - x Incorporate different theoretical frameworks to the previously mentioned concepts and integrate them to the analysis of different film texts.
 - x Relate canonical readings on national cinema with more contemporary conceptual approaches.
 - x Have insights into the diversity and psychosociology of the cinematic nation as this construct is marked by class, race, gender/sexuality, nationality and genre.
 - x The above will be acquired by students through developing a capacity for argument, research, judgement and analysis that will be fostered by essays and other assignments, and by in-class small-group
- 0.129 (-)Tj -0.002 Tc 0.007 Tw /TT0 1 Tfas t- c 0-0.002 Tc (-5 (by)-2 (-2 1.6

Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows :

Tutorial Participation		10%
Short Essay		15%
Mid-term	Posted 14 February —Submission 17 February	20%
Research Essay Due	21 March	20%

TOTAL TERM 65%

FINAL EXAMINATION

Posted on OWL 48 hours before the scheduled exam slot.

Response submitted by 11:55 PM of the day of the scheduled

Exam submission via OWL Assignments (this date will be published) 35%

The Department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

Students are required to attend all Zoom tutorial sessions. Attendance is monitored by OWL Zoom.

Make sure to come to class having read and thought about the weekly articles specified in this syllabus and with the relevant notes and material in hand.

1. Participation: 10%

Students are expected and encouraged to participate in class discussions and debates, which will be carried out in a respectful and dialogical manner. They will be based on each week's assigned readings and screenings.

Participation marks will be given on the basis of:

- a) active engagement in discussions
- b) critical responses to the required readings

Students are also encouraged to send to the instructor by email questions related to each week's screenings and readings. Some of these questions will be discussed during tutorials and this type of participation will count towards their participation mark.

2. Short Essay : 15%

To be submitted on **February, 28 February by 11:55 PM** via OWL Assignments

Title of essay: Approaching ideas of nation, nationalism and identity.

Each student is to choose / find a news article, song, obje)4.3 (na)10..413 Tdd ()T0 Td [(b)-10.7 (y 1)]TJ -0.00

Arguments must be strengthened and built around ideas presented by Benedict Anderson, and Etienne Balibar:

Etienne Balibar, "The Nation Form: History and Ideology" *Race, Nation, Class: Ambiguous Identities* (London and New York: Verso, 1991): 86-106. CP and PDF—view @ OWL

Benedict Anderson, "Introduction." *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. 1983. London: Verso, 1993: 1-36. PDF view @ OWL

Failure to work with these two authors will have a negative effect on your mark. Their ideas should be thoroughly referenced.

Please use MLA format <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Please submit only one file through OWL Assignments in ms word format. Always include the file extension and your surname. For example, if I were submitting my file name would look like this: gittings_Essay1 3373

PDFs will not be accepted

Word count and bibliography/works cited should be included at the end of the assignment

3. Mid Term Exam on OWL: 20%

The midterm-exam will be posted to OWL Assignments on 14 February. You will submit your responses to the mid-term questions via OWL Assignments by 11:55 PM on 17 February.

Your responses must be submitted as an MS Word file. PDF files will not be accepted. Midterm responses not uploaded to OWL Assignments by 11:55 PM on 17 February will not be graded unless accommodation is sought and granted through your Dean's Office.

On the mid-term exam, students will have to:

- x Identify screen captures from films studied in class, explain their context and significance, how they signify in the films.
- x Articulate your understanding of 2 terms taken from your readings and lectures, illustrating your points with reference to at least 2 films from the course in each response.

4. Research Essay: 20%



Please use MLA format (see the menu items on the left of the site page) :
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html

Films will be selected from the following titles :

Bamboozled (USA, Spike Lee, 2000)

Incident at Resitgouche (Canada, Alanis Obomsawin, 1984)

The Group of Seven Inches (Canada, Gisele Gordon, Kent Monkman, 2005)

Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (USA, Steven Spielberg, 1998)

Earth (India/Canada Deepa Mehta, 1998)

Five Broken Cameras (Palestine/Israel/France/Netherlands, Emad Burnata and Guy Davidi 2012)

Proteus (Canada/South Africa, John Greyson and Jack Lewis, 2003)

I'm British But... (United Kingdom, Gurinder Chadha, 1989)

This is England (United Kingdom, Shane Meadows, 2006)

El laberinto del fauno/Pan's Labyrinth (Mexico/Spain/USA, Guillermo del Toro, 2006)

Todo sobre mi madre/All About My Mother (Spain, Pedro Almodóvar, 1999)

Moulin Rouge (Australia/U.S.A, Baz Lhurmann, 2001)

Cinema Paradiso (Italy, Giuseppe Tornatore, 1988)

Dust (UK/Germany/Republic of Macedonia, Milcho Manchevski, 2001)