English 695 (CRN 36437): Postcolonial Film
Fridays: 9-noon @ PLC 253
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 3-5 pm and by appointment

Goal
The course explores how elaborates on issues of postcoloniality in Algeria, Egypt, India and Senegal. We will query how cinema reflects and reflects on the postcolonial condition in these nations and also ask how cinema becomes an instrument of decolonization. Though a colonial import, we will see how in the instance of Algeria and Senegal cinema proves foundational to the formation of a nation-state and a national culture. We will then shift the focus from postcolonial cinema as “politics” to the “cinemas of entertainment” developed in countries like Egypt and India to ask how a commercial cinema engages with questions of modernity and postcolonial nationhood.

Requirements
Presentation: 25% (please see some guidelines under assignments)
Final Paper: 75% (the same as above)

Mar 28: Introduction

Apr 8: Cinema and the Liberation Struggle: The Instance of Algeria
Screenings: Battle of Algiers (Pontecorvo, 1966)
Readings: Selections from Fanon, Young, Srivastava and Boujedra (PDFs)

Apr 18: Gender and the Postcolonial Modern: The Instance of Algeria
(we meet in PLC 448)
Screenings: La Nouba des Femmes du Mont Chenoua (Djebar, 1977)
Viva Algeria (Nadir Mokneche, 2004)
Rachida (Yamina Bashir, 2002)
Readings: Selections from Khanna, Salhi and Badry (PDFs)

Apr 22: Postcolonialism and Third Cinema: The Instance of Senegal
Screenings: Ceddo (Sembene, 1976)
Touki, Bouki (1973)
Readings: Selections from Cesaire, Young, Fanon, Gabriel (PDFs)

Apr 29: Commercial Cinema and Postcolonial Nationalism: The Instance of India
Screenings: Mother India (Mehboob Khan, 1957)
Shree 420 (Raj Kapoor, 1955)
Readings: Selections from Chakrabarty, Prasad, Vasudevan, Mishra, (PDFs)
May 6: The Nation and its Fragments: The Instance of Regional Indian Cinema
Screenings: Mahanagar (The big city, Satyajit Ray, 1964)
    Subarnarekha (The golden thread, Ritwik Ghatak, 1965)
Readings from Chatterjee, Sarkar, Biswas, Ganguly, Rajyadaksha

May 13: The Postcolonial Blockbuster: Bollywood’s First Coming
Screenings: Deewar (“Wall” Yash Chopra, 1975)
    Sholay (“Flames” Ramesh Sippy, 1975)
Readings from Prasad, Majumdar, Gopal and Gopalan

May 26: Two Takes on Globalization: Bollywood’s Second Coming
    Screenings: Kal Ho Na Ho (If tomorrow comes, Nikhil Advani, 2002)
    Love, Sex Aur Dhoka (Love, sex and betrayal, Dibakar Banerjee, 2010)
Readings from Rajyadaksha, Gopal, Prasad, Mankekar

May 27: Imaging the postcolonial Nation: The Instance of Egypt
Screening: A Glass and a Cigarette (Niazi Mostafa, 1955)
    Cairo Station (Youssef Chahine, 1958)
Readings: Vitalis and Armbrust

June 3: Adrift in Cairo: The Instance of Egypt
Screenings: Adrift on the Nile (Hussein Kamal, 1975)
    The Yakoubian Building (Marwen Hamed, 2008)
Readings: Armbrust et al