



This is an abridged sample syllabus. Information is subject to change. Full syllabus will be distributed to registered students when term begins.

## **ASIA\_V 433 - Representations of Muslims in Hindi/Urdu Films**

**Sunera Thobani**

This course introduces students to the study of popular film - a media that informs culture, politics and subjectivity - in the South Asian context. Film was introduced in South Asia during the colonial era, but South Asian Film scholars agree this cinema is not derivative. Indeed, with its 'indigenization', cinema became indispensable to the formation of the post-independence state and nation, and of its subject/s. We will study the representation of Muslims and other minorities in popular Indian cinema through an intersectional lens to understand how the nation and its forms of belonging are brought into being. Our study of popular films will also allow us to trace how majority-minority relations are depicted and how these representations have changed over time.

**Mode of Delivery:** Online

### **Sample Readings**

Khatun, N. (2024) 'Introduction: Muslims in Postcolonial Bollywood: Theoretical Debates and Methodological Positions', *Postcolonial Bollywood and Muslim Identity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1-32.

Yengde, S. (2018) 'Dalit Cinema', *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*. 41:3. 503-518.

Das, S. M. (2006) 'Partition and Punjabiyyat in Bombay Cinema: the cinematic perspectives of Yash Chopra and Others', *Contemporary South Asia*. 15 (4). 453 - 471.

### **Assignments**

Class Attendance and Participation|20

Critical Film Reviews|40

Final Paper|40