



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

ASIA_V 353 - Introduction to Hindi Film

Tanzoom Ahmed

In this Introduction to Hindi Cinema course, students will engage with pivotal films that have defined Indian cinema across seven decades, from the 1950s to the present day. Beginning with *Mother India* (1957) and extending through contemporary works such as *Pathaan* (2023), the course examines critical themes including Partition, nation-building, colonial legacies, the erosion of Muslim political power, the construction of the Muslim minority identity, and the propagation of both subtle and overt Islamophobia through cinematic narratives. Students will analyze how Hindi films have not only reflected but actively shaped these socio-political discourses.

The course includes a dedicated module on the evolution of female stardom in Hindi cinema, tracing the careers and cultural impact of iconic actresses from Hema Malini and Rekha to contemporary figures such as Deepika Padukone. Additionally, students will explore critically acclaimed yet commercially underrepresented films, including *Homebound* (2025), *All We Imagine as Light* (2024), and *Laapataa Ladies* (2023), to gain a more comprehensive understanding of Hindi cinema's diverse aesthetic and thematic landscapes.

Mode of Delivery: Online

Sample Readings

Mother India (1957)

Pathaan (2023)

Homebound (2025)

Assignments

Lecture Engagement | 25%

Film Narrative Analysis 1 | 20%

Film Narrative Analysis 2 | 20%

Final Paper | 35%