The post-revolutionary Iranian national cinema has garnered international popularity and critical acclaim since the late 1980s for being innovative, ethical, and compassionate. This course will be an overview of post-revolutionary Iranian national cinema, but with a primary focus on the cinema of the 2000s. We will discuss and look at works of the most prominent films of this period including Asghar Farhadi. We will consider the dominant themes and stylistic characteristics of Iranian national cinema that since its ascendance in the late 1980s has garnered international popularity and critical acclaim for being innovative, ethical and compassionate. Moreover, the role of censorship and strong feminist tendencies of many contemporary Iranian films will be examined.

Red
Boutique
The Beautiful City
Dancing in the Dust
The Lizard
The Tennants
Week 1 [September 24]: Introduction
The first class will be an overview of two overarching themes of contemporary Iranian cinema that will be the focus of our course and the motive for the selection of our viewings. We will talk about the gritty, documentary aspect of Iranian films as well as women’s issues.

In-class Clips:
A. Documentary/realistic aspect
   *The Brick and the Mirror*
   *Ten*
   *Beautiful City*

B. Women’s issues
   *Red*
   *I’m Taraneh, 15*
   *Twenty Fingers*
   *Girl in Sneakers*

Week 2 [October 1]: Women’s Films, Feminist Manifestos and Social Statements
We will continue with women’s issues.

Viewing Before Class: *The May Lady*
Week 3 [October 8]: Women’s Films by Male Filmmakers  
Viewing Before Class: *Red*

Week 4 [October 15]: Social Issues  
Pre-Class viewing: *Boutique*

Week 5 [October 22]: Social Issues  
Pre-Class viewing: *Beautiful City*

Week 6 [October 29]: Can Iranians be funny? Comedy and Iranian Cinema  
Pre-Class viewing: *The Lizard*

Other essential Viewings:

   Amazon rental

   [https://watch.filmstruck.com/#!/detail/1300003369](https://watch.filmstruck.com/#!/detail/1300003369)

3. *I am Taraneh, I am Fifteen Years Old* (Rasul Sadr-Ameli, 2006 – Recommended)  
   Stream site tbd,

   Amazon Rental

5. *Certified Copy* (Abbas Kiarostami, 2010 – recommended)  
   ITunes Rental

1. *Divorce, Iranian Style* (Kim Longinotto and Ziba Mir-Hosseini – Required)  
   [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qs9XSTt-DIE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qs9XSTt-DIE)

   Stream site tbd.
3- *Ten* (Abbas Kiarostami, 2002 – Recommended)  
Fandor and Amazon Rental.

4- *The Circle* (Jafar Panahi, 2000)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOjzUaBgCKA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOjzUaBgCKA)

**Readings**

There are no assigned readings, but the following books are highly recommended. I will send a couple of general readings via listserv.


