

## Contemporary Iranian Cinema

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**Fall 2018 between September 24 – October 20**

**Times: Monday 10-noon**

**Location: California Jazz Conservatory - Rendon Hall**

2040 Addison Street, Berkeley, CA 94704



The post-revolutionary Iranian national cinema has garnered international popularity and critical acclaim since the late 1980s 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*

*I'm Taraneh, 15*  
*Girl in Sneakers*  
*The May Lady*  
*Border Café*  
*The Brick and the Mirror*  
*Twenty Fingers*  
*Ten*



*The Brick and the Mirror*: Directed by Ebrahim Golestan

### **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:

- 1- *Separation* (Asghar Farhadi, 2014 – Required)  
Amazon rental
  - 2- *Taste of Cherry* (Abbas Kiarostami, 1997 – Recommended)  
<https://watch.filmstruck.com/#!/detail/1300003369>
  - 3- *I am Taraneh, I am Fifteen Years Old* (Rasul Sadr-Ameli, 2006 – Recommended)  
Stream site tbd,
  - 4- *Persepolis* (Marjane Satrapi and Vincent Paronnaud, 2007 – Recommended)  
Amazon Rental
  - 5- *Certified Copy* (Abbas Kiarostami, 2010 – recommended)  
iTunes Rental
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- 1- *Divorce, Iranian Style* (Kim Longinotto and Ziba Mir-Hosseini – Required)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qs9XSTt-DIE>
  - 2- *The Apple* (Samira Makhmalbaf, 1998 – Recommended)  
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>

### Readings

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

- 1- Akrami, Jamsheed. “Sixty Six Years of Film Production in Iran.” 15 Jun. 2009.  
<<http://www.made-in-iran.com/film/filmovie.htm>>.
- 2- Akrami, Jamsheed. “Cinema in Persia iv: Film Censorship.” *Encyclopaedia Iranica Online*. 1992. 20 Jul. 2009 <<http://www.iranica.com/newsite/search/index.isc>>.
- 3- Fischer, Michael M.J. *Mute Dreams, Blind Owls, and Dispersed Knowledges: Persian Poesis in the Transnational Circuitry*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2004.
- 4- Naficy, Hamid. *A Social History of Iranian Cinema, Volumes 1 through 4*, Duke University Press Books, 2011.
- 5- Tapper, Richard, Editor. *The New Iranian Cinema: Politics, Representation and Identity*. London: I.B. Tauris Publishers, 2002.





