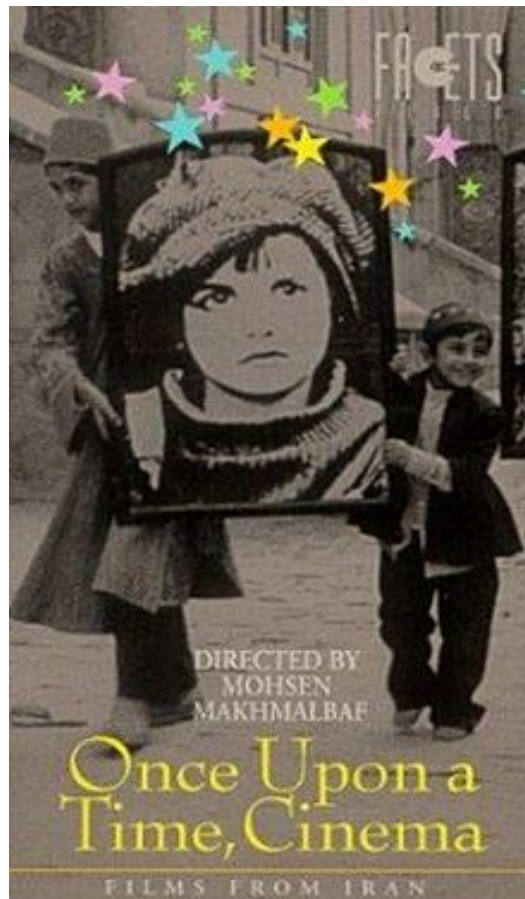


Contemporary Iranian Cinema



Prof. Hossein Khosrowjah

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Spring 2019, April 2 – May 7

Times: Tuesday 10-Noon

Location: Lafayette Library and Learning Center

3491 Mount Diablo Boulevard

Lafayette, CA 94549

**Extremely Important – at home, coffeshop, or your place of choice for film viewings:
IMVBOX**

Students should visit and take a subscription for one month only of <https://www.imvbox.com/> for course viewings with English subtitles. Make sure that you sign up for one month only, not the annual subscription. There are hundreds of Iranian films with subtitles in imvbox.com We will watch no more than 6-12 of them, but you should explore as many as you please. It will cost you an extra \$6 for the course, but it is necessary, while the most economical!

Course Description

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.



The Brick and the Mirror: Directed by Ebrahim Golestan

Week 1 [April 2]: Introductions and Signposts

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 Tendency: *The Brick and the Mirror*, *Ten*, *Beautiful City*
- B. Women's issues: *Red*, *I'm Taraneh*, *15*, *Twenty Fingers*, *Girl in Sneakers*

Week 2 [April 9]: Women's Films, Feminist Manifestos and Social Statements

We will continue with women's issues.

Viewing Before Class: 1- *The May Lady*, 2- *The Girl in Sneakers*



Week 3 [April 16]: Women's Films by Male Filmmakers

Viewing Before Class: 1- *Time of Love*, 2- *Red*

Week 4 [April 23]: Social Issues

Pre-Class viewing: 1- *Boutique*, 2- *The Beautiful City*, 3- *Deep Breath*

Week 5 [April 30]: Social Issues

Pre-Class viewings: 1- *Wooden Bridge*, 2- *Gagooman*

Week 6 [May 7]: Can Iranians be funny? Comedy and Iranian Cinema

Pre-Class viewing: 1- *The Lizard*, 2- *Tambourine*, 3- *Under the Moonlight*

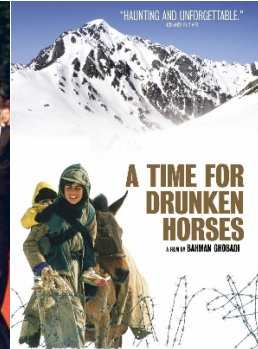
Other Essential Viewings:

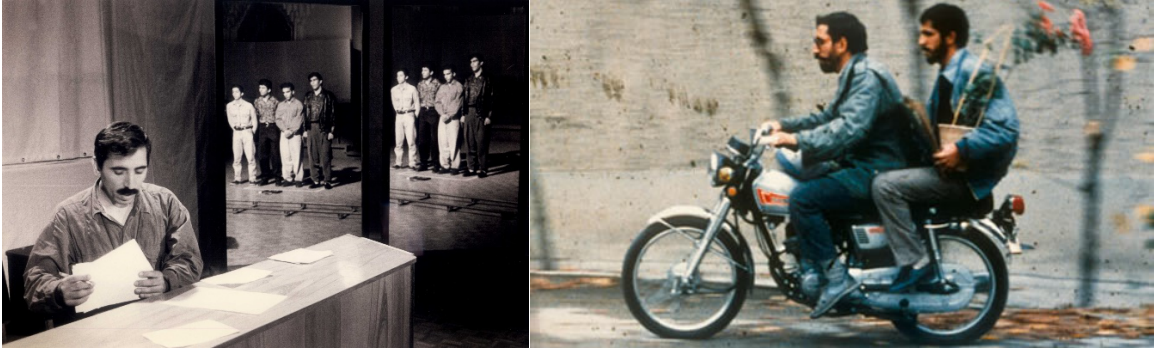
- 1- *Separation* (Asghar Farhadi, 2014 – Required)
Amazon rental
- 2- *Taste of Cherry* (Abbas Kiarostami, 1997 – Recommended)
<https://watch.filmstruck.com/#!/detail/1300003369>
- 3- *I am Taraneh, I am Fifteen Years Old* (Rasul Sadr-Ameli, 2006 – Recommended)
Stream site tbd,
- 4- *Persepolis* (Marjane Satrapi and Vincent Paronnaud, 2007 – Recommended)
Amazon Rental
- 5- *Certified Copy* (Abbas Kiarostami, 2010 – recommended)
iTunes Rental
- 6- *Divorce, Iranian Style* (Kim Longinotto and Ziba Mir-Hosseini – Required)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qs9XSTt-DIE>
- 7- *The Apple* (Samira Makhmalbaf, 1998 – Recommended)
Stream site tbd.
- 8- *Ten* (Abbas Kiarostami, 2002 – Recommended)
Fandor and Amazon Rental.
- 9- *The Circle* (Jafar Panahi, 2000)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOjzUaBgCKA>

A VERY VERY PARTIAL LIST OF OTHER INTERESTING OF RECENT IRANIAN FILMS

The Brick and the Mirror

Red
Boutique
The Beautiful City
Dancing in the Dust
The Lizard
The Tennants
I'm Taraneh, 15
Border Café
Twenty Fingers
ABC Africa
Marriage of the Blessed
Salaam Cinema
Two-legged Horse
A Time for the Drunken Horses
Women's Prison
The Girl in Sneakers
Tambourine
Gagooman
Dancing in the Dust
Wooden Bridge
Time of Love
Letters in the wind
May Lady
Our Times
A Cube of Sugar
Absolutely Tamed Horse





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.