

ENGLISH 3378.01 Spring 2021

Special Topics in Film and Literature: Indian Film Shakespeares

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Office hours: by appointment

MW 12:45-2:05pm

Online, through Zoom (links on Carmen)

Course Description

In this course, we shall go on a journey with Shakespeare to a land he never visited: where over twenty languages, dozens of mainstream cultures, scores of classical and vernacular performance traditions, and numerous deeply critical and affectionate engagements have brought the playwright's works to over 1.3 billion people in the twenty-first century. In India, which is home to over a sixth of the world's population, Shakespeare continues to be read, taught, performed, cited, adapted, translated, and filmed to this day—to the enjoyment and provocation of millions every year. Using a host of critically-acclaimed films from various filmic and linguistic lineages of India, this course will follow Shakespeare in his intensely local incarnations in the Indian subcontinent. What does India's Shakespeare look like? What does Shakespeare enable for India's current and postcolonial reality? And how does a set of Indian Shakespeares continue to give us, in the world, contemporary language(s) to talk about the urgencies of a global South?

Course Goals

This course will enable you to develop:

- an understanding of Shakespeare as a presence in multiple cinematic traditions of India;
- a level of comfort and enjoyment with these “unfamiliar” filmic registers;
- a comprehension of multiple postcolonial and political uses of Shakespeare in the Indian subcontinent.

The course exercises you will participate in will specifically enable you to develop:

- your visual close reading skills;
- your ability to present work orally to an engaged audience;
- your analysis of complex texts from multiple cultural and linguistic backgrounds and to explain those interpretations in writing;

Course Materials

I use the Arden (Third Series; Bloomsbury) texts, but any complete text version of the plays will do. Links to the MIT full texts of the plays we need are given below (free public access from the Web's first edition of the *Complete Works of Shakespeare*: <http://shakespeare.mit.edu/index.html>).

The Comedy of Errors

http://shakespeare.mit.edu/comedy_errors/full.html

Romeo and Juliet

http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/full.html

Macbeth

<http://shakespeare.mit.edu/macbeth/full.html>

Othello

<http://shakespeare.mit.edu/othello/full.html>

Hamlet

<http://shakespeare.mit.edu/hamlet/full.html>

Most of the films will be available in OSU's Secured Media Library. For a couple (see below), you will need to access them through Amazon Prime.

Course Requirements and Grading Breakdown

In-class participation and discussion (throughout the semester)	20% of course grade
In-class oral report and paper (20 minutes; 2-3 pages)	20% of course grade
Mid-term paper (4-5 pages)	20% of course grade
Final project presentation (5-7 minutes)	10% of course grade
Final paper (6-8 pages)	30% of course grade

Course Policies

1. Our class is a learning community; remember that every member is an equal and valued participant. Treat your community with respect, kindness, and consideration, especially now, in our unprecedented and deeply challenging time.
2. There will be a film assignment every week that you must complete. The corresponding play, in Shakespeare's English, will also be mandatory reading. Please give yourself adequate time to read and watch—and process what you have read and watched.
3. Familiarity with any of the languages of the films we shall view is excellent to have, but not required.
4. If you need extra time or any other adjustments in order to fulfil course expectations, please let me know in the first few meetings of the term. (For any accommodations, see also: <https://newark.osu.edu/students/student-life/disability-services.html>.)
5. Please try to attend all classes and stay for the entire class duration. If you *must* miss a class, however, please let me know in advance so that we may together plan the best means for you to make up work. It would be smart as well to arrange early in the term to trade notes with a classmate in case you do have to be absent.
6. I expect that the work you turn in will be entirely your own, written specifically for this course. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the assignment, and possibly for the course. I am required to report all academic misconduct to the Office of Academic Affairs, which may impose other penalties. (For further information, see: <https://oaa.osu.edu/academic-integrity-and-misconduct>).
7. Bring the relevant texts, a notebook, and a pencil/pen to class each day.
8. The format for all written assignments for this class is as follows: 1-inch margin on all sides of the page; 12-point Times New Roman font; double-spaced.

Schedule

Week 1: 11-15 January

Introduction to the course

- introduction to the weekly Observations and Questions assignment
- introduction to Shakespeare's life and times
- introduction to film terminology and criticism

Week 2: 18-22 January

Introduction to India's Shakespeares

- introduction to postcolonial theory and its uses for Shakespeare performance and criticism
- sign-up for in-class reports (please have your calendars handy)

The Comedy of Errors

Angoor (dir. Gulzar, 1982; Hindi)

(watch on Amazon Prime)

Week 3: 25-29 January

The Comedy of Errors

Angoor (dir. Gulzar, 1982; Hindi)

(watch on Amazon Prime)

Week 4: 1-5 February

Romeo and Juliet

Arshinagar (dir. Aparna Sen, 2015; Bengali)

(watch on Amazon Prime)

Week 5: 8-12 February

Romeo and Juliet

Arshinagar (dir. Aparna Sen, 2015; Bengali)

(watch on Amazon Prime)

Optional:

Qayamat se Qayamat tak (dir. Mansoor Khan, 1988; Hindi)

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SfkUHXz8I0w>)

Week 6: 15-19 February

Recap and revision

Essay drafts and in-class workshops

Mid-term paper due

Week 7: 22-26 February

Macbeth

Maqbool (dir. Vishal Bhardwaj, 2003; Hindi, Urdu)

(Watch on the Secured Media Library through our class page)

Week 8: 1-5 March

Macbeth

Maqbool (dir. Vishal Bhardwaj, 2003; Hindi, Urdu)

(Watch on the Secured Media Library through our class page)

Week 9: 8-12 March

Othello

Omkaara (dir. Vishal Bhardwaj, 2006; Hindi, Khariboli)

(Watch on the Secured Media Library through our class page)

Week 10: 15-19 March

Othello

Omkaara (dir. Vishal Bhardwaj, 2006; Hindi, Khariboli)

(Watch on the Secured Media Library through our class page)

Week 11: 22-26 March

Hamlet

Haider (dir. Vishal Bhardwaj, 2014; Hindi, Urdu, Kashmiri)

(Watch on the Secured Media Library through our class page)

Week 12: 29 March – 2 April

Hamlet

Haider (dir. Vishal Bhardwaj, 2014; Hindi, Urdu, Kashmiri)

(Watch on the Secured Media Library through our class page)

Week 13: 5-9 April

Catch-up and wrap-up

Final project presentations

Week 14: 12-16 April

Peer-review workshops

Week 15: 19-23 April

Final project submissions