Contemporary Iranian Cinema

Prof. Hossein Khosrowjah
hkhosrowjah@cca.edu
Winter 2017: Between January 24 and February 28
Times: Tuesday 1-3
Location: Freight & Salvage Coffee House

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. We will discuss and look at works of the most prominent films of this period including Abbas Kiarostami, Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Bahram Beyzaii, and 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.

Week 1 [January 24]: Introduction: The Early Days, The Birth of an Industry

Class Screenings:
Early Ghajar Dynasty Images (Complied by Mohsen Makhmalbaf, 18 mins)
The House is Black (Forough Farrokhzad, 1963)
Excerpts from Mohsen Makhmalbaf’s Once Upon a Time, Cinema (1992)

Pre-class viewing:

1. **Downpour** (Bahram Beyzai, 1972 – Required)
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-gCtDWHFQI

   http://www.veoh.com/watch/v:48030256GmyJGNQw

3. **The Brick and the Mirror** (Ebrahim Golestan, 1965 – Recommended)
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-gfNZqKULw

Week 3 [February 7]: Orientalism, Iran in the Western Imagination, Islamic Culture, The Village, and The Child

1. **Where’s the Friend’s Home?** (Abbas Kiarostami, 1987 – Required)
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0AlNhG4ugks

2. **The Marriage of the Blessed** (Mohsen Makhmalbaf, 1989 – Recommended)
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxTFV3SWtH0
3- *Homework* (Abbas Kiarostami, 1989 – Recommended)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrM62OxgOHs

4- *The Runner* (Recommended)
Stream site tbd.

Week 4 [February 14]: Censorship, Realism, Docu-fictions, Allegory, and Lyricism

Pre-Class viewing:

1- *Salam Cinema* (Mohsen Makhmalbaf, 1995 – Required)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghxO9frLjBE

2- *Close-Up* (Abbas Kiarostami, 1990 – Recommended)
http://www.veoh.com/watch/v48030256GmYJGNQw
Apple Rental

3- *The Crimson Gold* (Jafar Panahi, 2003 – Recommended)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_t58XHpnFU

4- *A Time for Drunken Horses* (Bahman Ghobadi, 2000)
Fandor
Week 5 [February 21]: Women’s Films, Feminist Manifestos and Social Statements

Pre-Class Viewing:

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

Week 6 [February 28]: Diasporic Filmmaking, Film Festivals and Global Film Circuit

Pre-Class Viewing:

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

**Readings**

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


