

FIRST YEAR SEMINAR COURSE PROPOSAL
UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON

Use this form to submit **FSEM 100 topics** courses for review **or any other existing course** that you wish to have designated to meet the first year seminar requirement.

COURSE NUMBER:			
COURSE TITLE:	Revolution and Cinema in Iran		
SUBMITTED BY:	Mehdi Aminrazavi	DATE:	
<i>This course proposal has the department's approval. (Put a check in the box to the right.)</i>			

NOTE: Click on the link for “first year seminar” at www.jtmoreello.org/gened to see the criteria used to evaluate courses proposed to meet the first year seminar requirement. See the report entitled “General Education Curriculum as Approved by the Faculty Senate” for additional details.

COURSE DESCRIPTION. In the space below, provide a one to two sentence description of this class. The description will be entered in Banner, and will also be used in other publications about the first year seminar program (such as the “Eagle Essentials” booklet).

Revolution and Cinema in Iran
In this course, we will trace the evolutionary process of Iranian cinema from its Western orientation before the revolution to the “revolutionary cinema” of post revolution and the emergence of the “anti-revolutionary “cinema of the present time.

RATIONALE. Using only the space provided in the box below, **briefly** state why this course should be approved as a first year seminar course.

Revolution and Cinema in Iran
The 1978-79 Islamic revolution in Iran not only changed the political system but had a profound effect on the Arts and no where was this change more noticeable than cinema.
In this course, we will trace the evolutionary process of Iranian cinema from its Western orientation before the revolution to the “revolutionary cinema” of post revolution and the emergence of the “anti-revolutionary “cinema of the present time.
Students will watch a number of the masterpieces of the Iranian cinema and discuss extensively its various aspects from a religious, philosophical and sociological perspective. Designed to be an interdisciplinary course, students will read texts pertaining to the subject matter by a number of leading authors.

SYLLABUS. Attach a course syllabus.

SUBMIT this form and attached syllabus electronically as one document to Warren Rochelle (wrochell@umw.edu) or Maya Mathur (mmathur@umw.edu). All submissions must be in electronic form.

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Week 1 An over view of the history of Iran with particular emphasis on modern period. A culture pulled between the East and the West, the role of cinema as a medium for the culture war, the question of women and the Iranian revolution of 1978-79 will be discussed.

The Western Pre-revolutionary Period

- Week 2 Film, symbolism and allegory as a medium of expression in a dictatorship.
Viewing *Americanized Mohammad*
Discussion
- Week 3 Viewing *Deers*
Discussion & presentation
- Week 4 Viewing *Cow*
Discussion & presentation

The 1979 Islamic Revolution: “Emergency of the socially responsible cinema”

- Week 5 The Cultural Revolution and cinema
Reading and discussion
- Week 6 Viewing *The Little Soldier*
Discussion & Presentation
- Week 7 Mid-Term
Discussion & Presentation
- Week 8 Viewing *Freedom*
Discussion & Presentation

Week 9 Viewing a film TBD
Discussion & Presentation

Disillusionment, Dissent and the emergence of liberation cinema

Week 10 Viewing: *The Glass Agency*
Discussion & Presentation

Week 11 Viewing *Off side*
Discussion & Presentation

Week 12 Viewing: *Gilaneh*
Discussion & Presentation

Week 13 Viewing: *Persepolis*
Discussion & Presentation

Week 14 Discussion

Required Books:

1. Shahla Mirbakhtiyar, *Iranian Cinema and the Islamic Revolution*
2. Hamid R. Sadr, *Iranian Cinema, a Political History*
3. Edward Said, *Culture and Imperialism*

Every student is expected to write a weekly reflection /comments/ analyses and interpretation paper (2-4 pages) on the films we watch and the class' analysis and interpretation of these films. In addition, every student is required to give a presentation on a film or a related topic to a film and/or our readings.

There will not be a final exam, your grade is the average between the 12 papers you will turn in (24 to 48 pages total.)

Student participation in class discussions is required above and beyond what is expected of a College student. The ability and willingness to analyze intellectually alien concepts is highly desirable.

A grade of D or below will be reported as "unsatisfactory" on your mid-semester report. Your letter grade in the course will be an A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, or F if your average is at least 90%, 80%, 70%, 60% or below 60%, respectively. "Participation" means more than

attendance and occasional comments, but it does include attendance, since you cannot participate if you're absent. Excessive absences will be detrimental to your grade. The primary factors in the participation grade are: evidence that you are prepared for class (by your questions, answers and comments) and the quality (as well as quantity) of your contributions to our in-class work.

Late work will not be credited; to avoid a zero, do it on time.

II. University of Mary Washington operates at all times under an Honor System. Each student is expected to comply with the spirit of the system, which means (among other things) regular attendance in class, conscientious and timely completion of homework and reading assignments, honesty, and attentiveness to infractions of the Honor Policy.

Because we have an Honor System and intend that students conduct themselves as trustworthy, mature and self-responsible individuals, we do not mechanically count attendance each session. However, you are expected to be in class for each meeting, and to miss only in cases of genuine and significant conflicts, illness or emergency (the same criteria you would apply to the instructor). You will lose the points for participation and attendance if you miss four classes or more which does not fit the description above.

III. When you are having difficulty with the material in this course, you should feel free to contact me and ask for assistance; it is unwise to let your confusions linger. It is your responsibility as a student to seek such help when and as you need it.

Trinkle Hall #237

Tel. 540-654-1341

(Maminraz@umw.edu)

Office Hours:

M: 9:30-10:00 & 2:30-3:30

T: By appointment only

W: 9:30-10:00 & 2:30-3:30

TH: By appointment only

F: 9:30-10:00 & 2:30-3:30