

# Course Outline for COM 353-61: Intercultural Films

## J-term 2015 | Memorial Hall 106: Daily (1.14 – 1.30.2015, 6.00–9.45 p.m.)

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Office Hours: Daily 5 – 6 p.m.; or by appointment.

- A. Course Policies and Details:** [bit.ly/ce-policy](http://bit.ly/ce-policy) & [my.elmhurst.edu](http://my.elmhurst.edu)
- B. Social:** @prorhetoric #ecom353 | [craigengstrom.info](http://craigengstrom.info) – #intercultural film
- C. Course Schedule** (See Below)
- D. Activities and Assignments**

Activities / Assignments	% of Final Grade
Reading and Discussion	30%
Pre-viewing Worksheet	15%
Film Reactions (Tumblr)	25%
Film Review / Film Treatment (Final)	30%
Additional Film – Extra effort points	(+5%)
	<b>100%</b>

*Please bring the day's required reading (or notes) to every class meeting.*

**Reading and Discussion.** This is the type of class where discussion is important. We'll discuss readings, pre-viewing details, and films. You need to participate in discussions and make commentary that is connected and relevant to the readings and films. You will receive a daily score for your efforts, which includes an evaluation of your completion of reading assignments.

**Pre-viewing Info Worksheet.** You'll prepare one pre-viewing worksheet for a film that you've been assigned. This will be one to two pages (see sample on Blackboard [also discussed during our first class meeting]). You need to submit the worksheet by 4 p.m. (via email) on the day that your assigned film screens. You should also prepare questions and be ready to facilitate the post-screening discussion.

**Film Reactions (Tumblr).** Following two to three of the films that we screen (select ones that resonate with you), you should write a reaction to the film. A paragraph (or two) should suffice. Writing and analytic quality will be assessed. Submit via Tumblr (<http://craigengstrom.info/submit>).

**Film Review/Film Treatment.** For the final assignment (due February 1, 2015, midnight), you need to write a *film review* of one the movies screened in class. It should connect with readings and the overall focus on *identity* in this course. Note that this is not a report. For ideas about how to write a film review, see <http://www.dailywritingtips.com/7-tips-for-writing-a-film-review>. If a film review does not appeal to you, write a *movie script treatment* that described the story you'd like to tell about culture and identity. Here is how to write a treatment: <http://www.movieoutline.com/articles/how-to-write-a-treatment.html>. Either of these documents is likely to be about 2–4 pages (single-spaced lines).

**Additional Film.** You can watch an additional film and write a one-page argument that explains why the film would (not) be a good fit for the course. This is an "extra effort" assignment.

## Intercultural Films

**01/14 – 01/30/2015:**

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday (6:00 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.).**

13 days (225 mins. each class)

**--Readings Subject to Change--**

### **Day 1: Exploring Intercultural Identity through Film | Weds., Jan. 14**

**Film(s):** *Lost in Translation* (2003; dir. Sofia Coppola, USA, 101 mins.)

**Readings:** – Orbe, pp. 235–237 (to “Media”), p. 239 (“Movies”), pp. 243–245 (to “Focus on Reality TV”)  
 – Day 1 Vocab Packet: *Communication, Culture, Identity, Narrative, Hermeneutics*  
 – Ott & Keeling, pp. 363–365

### **Day 2: Social/Political Context and Identity | Thurs., Jan. 15**

**Film(s):** *The Band’s Visit* (2007; dir. Eran Kolirin, Israel, 87 mins.)  
*Waltz with Bashir* (2008; dir. Ari Folman, Israel/Germany, 90 mins.)

**Readings:** – Postman, pp. vii–15 (Forward to end).  
 – Day 2 Vocab Packet: *Discourse, Agency, Anti-essentialism, Identity Politics*

### **Day 3: Social/Political Context and Identity | Fri., Jan. 16**

**Film(s):** *Waltz with Bashir – Part 2*  
*The Reluctant Fundamentalist* (2013; dir. Mira Nair, USA/UK/Qatar, 130 mins.)

**Readings:** – Day 3 Vocab Packet: *Authenticity, Simulacrum, Aesthetics, Consumption*  
 – Baseer, pp. all (except section labeled ‘methodology.’)  
 – Iqbal, pp. 242–244

### **Day 4: Social/Political Context and Identity | Mon., Jan. 19**

**Film(s):** *City of God* (2002; dirs. Fernando Meirelles & Kátia Lund, Brazil, 130 mins.)

**Readings:** – Day 4 Vocab: *Genre, Space, Cultural Materialism, Globalization, Glocalization, Governmentality*  
 – What is slum tourism? (Website)  
 – Beck, pp. 24–27  
 – Freire-Modeiros, pp. 21–23

**Day 5: Subaltern Voices and Identity | Tues., Jan. 20**

**Film(s):** *Smoke Signals* (1998; dir. Chris Eyre, USA/Canada, 89 mins.)  
*Omar* (2014; dir. Hany Abu-Assad, Palestine, 96 mins., part 1)

**Readings:** – Day 5 Vocab: *Subaltern, Subject position, Subjectivity, Reflexivity, Stereotype*  
 – Alexie, Introduction (all)

**Day 6: Subaltern Voices and Identity | Weds., Jan. 21**

**Film(s):** *Omar* – Part 2  
*Prisoner of the Mountains* (1997; dir. Sergie Bodrov, Russia/Kazakhstan, 98 mins)

**Readings:** – Day 6 Vocab : *Citizenship, Diaspora, Nation-state, Grand narrative, Cultural Imperialism, Imagined community*

**Day 7: Gender, Sexuality, and Identity | Thurs., Jan. 22**

**Film(s):** *Quinceñera* (2006; dir. Richard Glatzer & Wash Westmoreland, US, 90 mins.)  
*Whale Rider* (2003; dir. Niki Caro, New Zealand, 101 mins.)

**Readings:** – Day 7 Vocab: *Canon, Ideology, Performativity, Gender*  
 – Newman (pp. 1–2)

**Day 8: (Dis)ability and identity | Fri., Jan 23**

**Film(s):** *Whale Rider* – Part 2  
*The Intouchables* (2011; dir. Olivier Nakache & Éric Toledano, France, 113 mins.)

**Readings:** – Day 8 Vocab: *Body, Intertextuality, Différance, Identification*

**Day 9: Religion and Identity | Mon., Jan. 26**

**Film(s):** *A Separation* (dir. Asghar Farhadi, Iran, 123 mins.)

**Readings:** – Darmer, “A closer look at whalerider,” pp. 74–78  
 – Charlie, “Interpreting intouchables,” pp. 123–137

**Day 10: Aging and Identity | Tues, Jan. 27**

**Film(s):** *Poetry* (2010; dir. Lee Chang-dong, South Korea, 139 mins)

**Readings:** – *Wikipedia Entry for Poetry (see URL)*  
– Guardian Film Review  
– Roger Ebert Review

**Day 11: Aging and Identity | Wed., Jan. 28**

**Film(s):** *Autumn Spring* (2001; dir. Vladimír Michálek, Czech Republic, 100 mins)

**Readings:** – Lisa Thatcher Review

**Day 12: Sport/Media and Identity | Thurs., Jan. 29**

**Film(s):** *Lagaan* (2001; dir. Ashutosh Gowariker, India, 224 mins)

**Readings:** – Day 12 Vocab: *National identity, Orientalism*  
– Select readings on India history, colonization, and cricket (TBD)

**Day 13: Vampires and Identity | Fri., Jan 30**

**Film(s):** *Let the Right One In* (2008; dir. Tomas Alfredsen, Sweden, 114 mins.)

**Readings:** – Calhoun, pp. 27–31