

## THE POLITICS OF FILM

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This course will focus on the complex and fascinating relationship between cinema and nationhood. We will begin by discussing cinema as a social practice, the language of cinema and some theoretical approaches to film. We will try to understand what it means to read a film politically. After that, we will proceed to an examination of the concept of nationhood in relation to cinema. Benedict Anderson said that nationhood depends on cultural signification. This has great implications for cinema, although Anderson himself did not discuss cinema. How are processes of film production, circulation and consumption shaped by questions of nationhood? How does the construction of nationhood in cinema involve suppression of memory and reinventing history? How can we read films in a way that the voices of the marginalized and the voices silenced by the officially sanctioned narratives of the state could be heard? We will discuss these questions with particular reference to films from the United States, Europe and Asia.

### RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Benedict Anderson - Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism

Andrew Higson- Waving the Flag: Constructing a National Cinema in Britain

Wimal Dissanayake – Colonialism and Nationalism in Asian Cinema

### EVALUATION

Participation	20%
Presentation	20%
Final paper	60%