

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY
School of International Studies
Winter Semester 2022

Course Number:	IS597N
Course Title:	Aesthetics and International Politics
Course Teachers & Contact Details:	Prof. Jayati Srivastava Room no. 316, SIS-II Tel. (O): 26704349 Email: jayatis@jnu.ac.in
Contact Hours:	One hour after the class & by appointment
Credit Allotted:	4
Instruction Method:	Lectures
Evaluation Method:	Mid-semester assessment: 50% End semester assessment: 50%
Class Schedule:	TBA

Important Guidelines:

- *Students must critically engage with all the assigned readings and take active part in class discussions.*
- *Penal grades would be imposed for late submission/ presentation, plagiarism and use of unethical academic practices. For details on research ethics and citation/ bibliography issues, please consult the SIS Research Manual (https://www.jnu.ac.in/sites/default/files/SIS_Research_Manual_0.pdf).*
- *All students must complete the mid-semester evaluation/s, without which they are not eligible to sit for the end semester examination.*

Course Description:

The course looks at IR discipline's dialogue with other disciplines and focuses on the world of aesthetics as an important aspect of knowing and understanding international relations. The course underlines that international politics, in addition to state level interactions, is also enacted and performed through various mediums such as popular culture, films, literature, music, art, paintings, museums, sports, etc. The course will enable the students to look at the two-way relationship between aesthetics and international politics – both shaping and structuring the other. It will also underline that aesthetics and its deployments are deeply political acts and not value-neutral. The course will simultaneously familiarise students with conceptual and methodological tools drawn from different fields to understand the art and craft of international politics by other means.

The course by its very nature requires diverse pedagogical tools, which would include lectures but also use of documentaries, films, videos, and various forms of visual and graphic materials, which would be announced in the class.

I: Politics and Performance of Aesthetics

This section will discuss the politics of performance through different aesthetic mediums as an important lens to study international politics. It would also introduce trans-disciplinary methods to study the role of aesthetics in international politics.

II: Popular Culture

This section would discuss the relationship between popular culture and international politics. While touching upon the debate over what constitutes popular culture, it will discuss the problematic dichotomy between popular culture and high culture. It would also delineate the ways in which popular culture and international politics exist in an intertwined relationship, simultaneously impacting and impacted upon by the other.

III: Films

This section will discuss the role and importance of films in enacting, influencing and representing international politics. The imagery and message in films may contest or coalesce with the dominant narrative, thus marking a dynamic and open-ended relationship between the two. By drawing on select films, this section will also discuss some of the core issues in international politics such as self-other, power, diplomacy, eco-politics, partition, etc.; and, the manner in which they simultaneously represent and sway international politics.

IV: Literature

The section will discuss the power of literature – both fiction and non-fiction – in capturing various aspects of international politics. It will explain the narrative approaches, and look into the world of Harry Potter, contemporary travel writings and cold war anthology as a mirror to study international politics.

V: Music

The world of music is considered to be borderless and yet music travels through extant nation-state borders, thus creating the possibilities of either convergence or schism between states. This section will discuss how the world of music is mediated by international politics. In doing so, it will also examine the use of music as a medium by the states to augment their interests and the potential transformative role that music may play in altering the domain of the international.

VI: Art/ Visuality

In an increasingly mediatised world, the role of visual imagery cannot be over-stated in international politics. This section will therefore focus on the embedded politics of representation in art, museums, photographs, and, paintings; particularly around questions of war, security and conflict. Alongside, it will also discuss how art and visuality is informed and impacted by the changing landscape of international politics.

VII: Sport

This section will deal with the evolving relationship between international politics and various forms of sport (including video games & Barbie dolls). International sport politics plays out in various ways including selection of cities for sporting events; and, sporting events such as Olympics becoming an important site for politics of protest and boycotts. At the same time, delineation of sport politics would examine complex issues of ethics, nationality, migration and sport-war analogies.

Themes & Readings:

I: Politics and Performance of Aesthetics

Essential Readings

Bharucha, Rustom (2014), *Terror and Performance*, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, pp. 1-30.

Bleiker, Roland (2001), 'The Aesthetic Turn in International Political Theory', *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, vol. 30, no. 3, December, pp. 509-533.

Shapiro, Michael J. (2013), *Studies in Trans-Disciplinary Method: After the Aesthetic Turn*, London: Routledge, pp. 1-32.

Supplementary Readings

Bleiker, Roland (2012), *Aesthetics and World Politics: Rethinking Peace and Conflict Studies*, London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 67-83.

Devetak, R. (2005), 'The Gothic Scene of International Relations: Ghosts, Monsters, Terror and the Sublime after September 11', *Review of International Studies*, vol. 31, no. 4, October, pp. 621-643.

Shimazu, Naoko (2011), 'Diplomacy as Theatre': *Recasting the Bandung Conference of 1955 as Cultural History*, Asia Research Institute Working Paper Series No. 164, Singapore: National University of Singapore.

II: Popular Culture

Essential Readings

- Gilboa, Eytan (2005), 'The CNN Effect: The Search for a Communication Theory of International Relations', *Political Communication*, vol. 22, no.1, pp. 27-44.
- Grayson, K., Davies, M. & Philpott, S. (2009), 'Pop Goes IR?: Researching the Popular Culture-World Politics Continuum', *Politics*, vol. 29, no. 3, October, pp. 155-163.
- Neumann, Iver B. & Nexon, Daniel H. (2006), 'Introduction: Harry Potter and the Study of World Politics', Nexon, Daniel H. & Neumann, Iver B. (eds.), *Harry Potter and International Relations*, Oxford: Rowman & Littlefield, pp. 1-23.
- Weldes, Jutta & Rowley, Christina (2015), 'So, How Does Popular Culture Relate to World Politics?', Caso, Federica & Hamilton, Caitlin (eds.), *Popular Culture and World Politics: Theories, Methods, Pedagogies*, Bristol: E-International Relations, pp. 11-34.

Supplementary Readings

- Åhäll, Linda (2009), 'Images, Popular Culture, Aesthetics, Emotions: The Future of International Politics?', *Political Perspectives*, vol. 3, no. 1, pp. 1-44.
- Ghosh, Partha, S. (2015), 'The Other Side of Partition: Resonances of Cultural Expressions', *South Asia Research*, vol. 35, no. 1, February, pp. 42-60.
- Rowley, C. (2010), 'Popular Culture and the Politics of the Visual', Shepherd, L. J. (ed.), *Gender Matters in Global Politics: A Feminist Introduction to International Relations*, London: Routledge, pp. 309-325.
- Wang, Ningchuan (2013), 'The Currency of Fantasy: Discourses of Popular Culture in International Relations', *International Studies: Interdisciplinary Political and Cultural Journal*, vol. 15, no. 1, December, pp. 21-33.

III: Films

Essential Readings

- Carter, Sean & Dodds, Klaus (2014), *International Politics and Film: Space, Vision, Power*, Columbia: Wallflower Press, pp. 1-20 & pp. 21-42.
- Hozic, Aida A. (2014), 'Between "National" and "Transnational": Film Diffusion as World Politics', *International Studies Review*, vol. 16, no. 2, June, pp. 229-239.
- Weber, Cynthia, *International Relations Theory: A Critical Introduction*, third edition, Oxon: Routledge, 2010, pp. 1-12 & pp. 217-228.

Supplementary Readings

- Bharkar, Ira (2013), 'Trauma, Melodrama and the Production of Historical Affect: The Partition, Memory and the Contemporary Communal Riot in Indian Cinema', Nasta, Dominique, Andrin, Muriel & Gailly, Anne (eds.), *Film Melodrama Revisited*, Brussels: P.I.E. Peter Lang.
- Chakraborty, Chandrima (2005), 'Bollywood Motifs, Cricket Fiction and Fictional Cricket', Majumdar, Boria & Mangan, J.A. (eds.), *Sports in South Asian Society: Past and Present*, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, pp. 213-236.
- Derian, James Der (2010), 'Now We Are All Avatars', *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, vol. 39, no. 1, August, pp. 1-6.
- Lacy, Mark J. (2001), 'Cinema and Ecopolitics: Existence in the Jurassic Park', *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, vol. 30, no. 3, December, pp. 635-645.
- Matusitz, Jonathan & Payano, Pam (2011), 'The Bollywood in Indian and American Perceptions: A Comparative Analysis', *India Quarterly*, vol. 67, no. 1, March, pp. 65-77.
- Neumann, Iver B. (2001), '"Grab a Phaser, Ambassador": Diplomacy in Star Trek', *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, vol. 30, no. 3, December, pp. 603-624.

IV: Literature

Essential Readings

- Bleiker Roland, 'Forget IR Theory', *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political*, vol. 22, no. 1 Jan-Mar 1997, pp. 57-85.
- Park-Kang, S. (2015), 'Fictional IR and Imagination: Advancing Narrative Approaches', *Review of International Studies*, vol. 41, no. 2, April, pp. 361-381.
- Sterling-Folker, J. & Folker, Brian (2006), 'Conflict and Nation State: Magical Mirrors of Muggles and Refracted Images', Nexon, Daniel H. & Neumann, Iver B. (eds.), *Harry Potter and International Relations*, Oxford: Rowman & Littlefield, pp. 103-126.

Supplementary Readings

- Halliday, Fred (2001), "'High and Just Proceedings": Notes Towards an Anthology of the Cold War', *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, vol. 30, no. 3, December, pp. 691-707.
- Jackson, Patrick Thaddeus and Mandaville, Peter, 'Glocal Hero: Harry Potter Abroad' in Daniel H. Nexon & Iver B. Neumann, eds. *Harry Potter and International Relations*, Oxford: Rowman & Littlefield, pp. 45-59.
- Lisle, Debbie, (2006) (ed.), *The Global Politics of Contemporary Travel Writing*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 27-67.

V: Music

Essential Readings

- Attali, Jacques (2009), *Noise: The Political Economy of Music* (trans. Brian Massumi), Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, pp. 3-20.
- Bleiker, Ronald (2005), 'Of Things We Hear but Cannot See: Musical Explorations of International Politics', Franklin, M. I. (ed.), *Resounding International Relations: On Music, Culture, and Politics*, London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 179-195.
- Ulrich, Franke & Schiltz, Kaspar (2013), "'They Don't Really Care About Us!": On Political Worldviews in Popular Music', *International Studies Perspectives*, vol. 14, no. 1, February, pp. 39-55.

Supplementary Readings

- Brown, Robin (2005), 'Americanization at its Best?: The Globalization of Jazz', Franklin, M. I. (ed.), *Resounding International Relations: On Music, Culture, and Politics*, London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 89-109.
- Clegg, Mindy L. (2015), 'When Jazz was King: Selling Records with the Cold War', *The Journal of American Culture*, vol. 38, no. 3, September, pp. 243-254.
- Lock, Kartin (2005), 'Who is Listening?: Hip-Hop in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Senegal', Franklin, M. I. (ed.), *Resounding International Relations: On Music, Culture, and Politics*, London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 141-177.

VI: Art / Visuality

Essential Readings

- Dodds, Klaus (2007), 'Steve Bell's Eye: Cartoons, Geopolitics and the Visualization of the "War on Terror"', *Security Dialogue*, vol. 38, no. 2, June, pp. 157- 177.
- Macdonald, Sharon (2010), 'Exhibitions of Power and Powers of Exhibition: An Introduction to the Politics of Display', Macdonald, Sharon (ed.), *The Politics of Display*, London: Routledge, pp. 1-21.
- Nemeth, Erik (2007), 'Cultural Security: The Evolving Role of Art in International Security', *Terrorism and Political Violence*, vol. 19, no. 1, pp. 19-42.
- Sylvester, Christine (2001), 'Art, Abstraction, and International Relations', *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, vol. 30, no. 3, December, pp. 535-554.

Sylvester, Christine (2013), 'Power, Security, and Antiquities', Edkins, Jenny & Kear, Adrian, *International Politics and Performance: Critical Aesthetics and Creative Practice*, Abingdon: Oxon, Routledge, pp. 203-220.

Supplementary Readings

Amoore, Louise (2007), 'Vigilant Visualities: The Watchful Politics of the War on Terror', *Security Dialogue*, vol. 38, no. 2, June, pp. 215-231.

Beier, Marshall, J. (2007), 'Grave Misgivings: Allegory, Catharsis, Composition', *Security Dialogue*, vol. 38, no. 2, June, pp. 251-269.

Brandon, Laura (2006), *Art and War*, London: I. B.Tauri, pp. 90-106 & 107-130.

Butler, Judith (2009), *Frames of War: When is Life Grievable*, London: Verso, pp. 63-100.

Campbell, D. (2007), 'Geopolitics and Visuality: Sighting the Darfur Conflict', *Political Geography*, vol. 26, no. 4, May, pp. 357-82.

Danchev, Alex (2011), *On Art and War and Terror*, Edinburgh: University of Edinburgh Press, pp. 172-196.

Dauphinée, E. (2007), 'The Politics of the Body in Pain: Reading the Ethics of Imagery', *Security Dialogue*, vol. 38, no. 2, June, pp. 139-55.

Guittet, Emmanuel-Pierre & Zevnik, Andreja (2015), 'Exposed Images of War', Åhäll, Linda & Gregory, Thomas, *Emotions, Politics and War*, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, pp. 195-209.

Hansen, L. (2011), 'Theorizing the Image for Security Studies: Visual Securitization and the Muhammad Cartoon Crisis', *European Journal of International Relations*, vol. 17, no. 1, March, pp. 51-74.

Lisle, Debbie (2007), 'Benevolent Patriotism: Art, Dissent and The American Effect', *Security Dialogue*, vol. 38, no. 2, June, pp. 233-250.

Möller, F. (2007), 'Photographic Interventions in Post-9/11 Security Policy', *Security Dialogue*, vol. 38, no. 2, June, pp. 179-96.

VII: Sport

Essential Readings

Cottrell, M. Patrick & Nelson, Travis (2010), 'Not just the Games? Power, Protest and Politics at the Olympics', *European Journal of International Relations*, vol. 17, no. 4, pp. 729-753.

Kidd, Bruce (2009), 'A New Social Movement: Sport for Development and Peace', Jackson, Steven J. & Haigh, Stephen (eds.), *Sport and Foreign Policy in a Globalizing World*, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, pp. 22-32.

Levermore, Roger (2004), 'Sports Role in Constructing the 'Inter-State' Worldview', Levermore, Roger, Budd, Adrian (eds.), *Sport and International Relations: An Emerging Relationship*, London: Routledge, pp. 16-30.

Maguire, Joseph (2009), "'Real Politic" or "Ethically Based": Sport, Globalization, Migration and Nation-State Policies', Jackson, Steven J. & Haigh, Stephen (eds.), *Sport and Foreign Policy in a Globalizing World*, Abington: Routledge, pp. 95-110.

Supplementary Readings

Chatterjee, Kingshuk, 'To Play or Not to Play: Fabricating Consent over the Indo-Pak Cricket Series', Majumdar, Boria & Mangan, J. A. (eds.), *Sports in South Asian Society: Past and Present*, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, pp. 277-292.

Grewal, Iderpal (2005), 'Traveling Barbie: Indian Transnationality and New Consumer Subjects', Guins, Raiford & Cruz, Omayra Zaragoza (eds.), *Popular Culture: A Reader*, New Delhi: Sage, pp. 168-183.

Long, David (2006), 'Quidditch, Imperialism, and the Sport-War Intertext', Nexon, Daniel H. & Neumann, Iver B. (eds.), *Harry Potter and International Relations*, Oxford: Rowman & Littlefield, pp. 127-154.

Miller, Toby, Rowe, David & Lawrence, Geoffrey (2011), 'The New International Division of Cultural

Labour and Sport', Maguire, Joseph & Falcou, Mark (eds.), *Sports and Migration: Borders, Boundaries and Crossings*, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, pp. 217-229.

Power, Marcus (2007), 'Digitized Virtuosity: Video War Games and Post-9/11 Cyber-Deterrence', *Security Dialogue*, vol. 38, no. 2, June, pp. 271-288.

Trend, D. (2003), 'Merchants of Death: Media Violence and American Empire', *Harvard Educational Review*, vol. 73, no. 3, September, pp. 285-308.

Further Readings:

Ahrendt, R., Ferraguto, M., Mahiet, D. (2014) (eds.), *Music and Diplomacy from the Early Modern Era to the Present*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Campbell, D. (1998), 'Review: Metabosnia: Narratives of the Bosnian War', *Review of International Studies*, vol. 24, no. 2, April, pp. 261-281.

Der Derian, J. (2001), *Virtuous War: Mapping the Military-Industrial-Media-Entertainment Network*. New York: Routledge.

Dittmer, Jason (2010), *Popular Culture, Geopolitics and Identity*, Lanham, Maryland, Rowman & Littlefield.

Drezner, Daniel W. (2015), *Theories of International Politics and Zombies*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Gienow-Hecht & Jessica, C. E. (2012), 'The World Is Ready to Listen: Symphony Orchestras and the Global Performance of America', *Diplomatic History*, vol. 36, no. 1, January, pp. 17-28.

Groys, Boris (2008), *Art Power*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press.

Hill, Christopher R. (1992), *Olympic Politics*, Manchester: Manchester University Press.

Inayatullah, Naeem, (2011) (ed.), *Autobiographical International Relations: I, International Relations*, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.

Murray, J. (1997), *Hamlet on the Holodeck: The Future of Narrative in Cyberspace*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Oliver, Thaddeus (2001), 'Techniques of Abstractions', *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, vol. 30, no. 3, December, pp. 555-570.

Perrine, Toni A. (1998), *Film and the Nuclear Age: Representing Cultural Anxiety*, New York: Garland Publishing.

Rai, Shirin, M. (2015), 'Political Performance: A Framework for Analysing Democratic Politics', *Political Studies*, vol. 63, no. 5, December, pp. 1179-1197.

Robinson, Piers, 'Theorizing the Influence of Media on World Politics: Models of Media Influence on Foreign Policy', *European Journal of Communication*, vol. 16, no. 4, December 2001, pp. 523-544.

Rose, G. (2012), *Visual Methodologies: An Introduction to Researching with Visual Materials*, London: Sage.

Salois, Kendra (2015), 'Connection and Complicity in the Global South: Hip Hop Musicians and US Cultural Diplomacy', *Journal of Popular Music Studies*, vol. 27, no. 4, December, pp. 408-423.

Shapiro, Michael J. (2001), 'Sounds of Nationhood', *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, vol. 30, no. 3, December, pp. 583-601.

Shapiro, Michael J. (2009), *Cinematic Geopolitics*, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.

Sylvester, Christine (2009), *Art/Museums: International Relations Where We Least Expect It*, Boulder: Paradigm.

Tomlinson, Alan & Young, Christopher, (2006) (ed.), *National Identity and Global Sports Events: Culture, Politics, and Spectacle in the Olympics and the Football World Cup*, Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.