

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Amy Guess

Humanities Discipline: Art History

Date: November 10, 2016

World Religion: Hinduism

Teaching Module Title: Bollywood and Hindu Cinematic Traditions

Teaching Module Goals:

1. Be able to discuss the core beliefs of Hinduism and how cinema now plays a huge role in Hindu expression
2. Understand the connections between Bollywood themes and those of Hindu ideology
3. Be able to compare Bollywood films to those in American culture

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

1. https://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/southasia/Culture/Cinema/hinduism_bollywood.html
2. <http://qz.com/439701/bollywood-films-are-all-about-upper-caste-hindu-heroes/>
3. <http://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1362&context=jrf>
4. <http://www.rhythm-india.com/bollywood-dance.html>
5. Weber-Wilkinson, Clare. *Fashioning Bollywood: The Making and Meaning of Hindi Film Costume*. 2014, Bloomsbury Academic.

<https://prezi.com/-gowdfumejop/hindu-theatre-history/>

Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. How does Bollywood examine contemporary Hindu culture without explicitly expounding traditional Hindu teachings?
2. What are some of the cinematic methods used that help portray Hindu themes in Bollywood films?
3. How do Bollywood released films differ from those in American society?
4. Why do you believe cinema has become such a key element of Hindu expression?
5. How has Bollywood recently begun to show negative aspects of Hinduism? Why could this be so?
6. How has Islam become integrated into the traditionally Hindu culture of Bollywood?

Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

Hindu teachings stress the use of theater, dance, music and artistic expression as ways of devotions; how have these ideas been integrated into our contemporary society through the use of cinema? Further, how do you believe other religions and cultures could benefit from such a view point? Watch a "Bollywood" film and write a 2 page paper discussing the Hindu ideas that may be apparently evident and those that may be underlying.