



Manipal Centre for European Studies

Faculty of Humanities, Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in India-EU Interdisciplinary Studies- Culture, Literature, Education and Society (IEIS – CLES)

Teaching Activity F.2.1.1

Watching' Europe –Understanding European Culture and Society through Cinema

Summer Semester 2021

Based on feedback and personal observations, the 'Watching' Europe module this year has been revised to incorporate the following:

Earlier	Now	Rationale
Focus: Post-war European society and culture	Focus: European integration; cities as sites of history and spatiality	Sharper focus Cities as sites of culture is an important cluster of activity in international diplomacy
Films were mainly critically acclaimed <i>popular cinema</i>	Includes also documentaries and short films	Sensitizes learner to diversity of European cinema
Film viewing time counted within overall workload/ classroom session	- Film viewing time counted only as student workload - Films are watched prior to a classroom session	Optimizes credit distribution, especially for learning groups with different credit requirements/ allocable hours per week
Only classroom-based viewing and learning	Module includes - online film viewing - online <i>synchronous</i> classes - online <i>asynchronous</i> classes (such as MOOC modules)	Learning groups with diverse requirements are able to pace their learning accordingly
8 Films	3 overarching films (but pedagogical kit includes at least 2 other films and a variety and other cultural material)	Ensures more sessions for classroom discussion; exposes learner to a broader appreciation of European cinema and culture itself Facilitates more focused learner output
Full films were downloaded and screened	Only authorized video clips (several sequences) are shared along with a pedagogical kit <i>Students will be only informed about third-party sources where a given film can be watched in entirety</i>	Self-explanatory, but also to make sure that only selected segments are then didacticized for more effective classroom discussion

MES 5207	Watching Europe	Summer Semester 2021
Instructor	Rahul Putty	
Credits	02	
Duration	14 weeks	
Format	Online (involves both synchronous & asynchronous sessions)	
Platform	MS Teams	

Course Introduction

Since the emergence of settled communities across the world 10,000 years ago, cities have been an important locus of human convergence, so much so that the idea of ‘civilization’ itself is intimately linked to this spatial entity. In the case of Europe, the conceptualization of the *polis* is what has shaped the society’s entire political vocabulary, which is ever so central to the identities of its peoples. From Athens to Brussels, European cities are sites of colorful local histories, even whilst projecting themselves ambitiously as ‘global’ cities of an integrated European Union. Straddled across the past, present, and future, cities form veritable tapestries of culture, whose spatiality is woven around the lives of its inhabitants – a relationship abundantly explored and expressed in various arts. Since the twentieth century, films have been an important visual medium for depicting stories of these shared identity constructions.

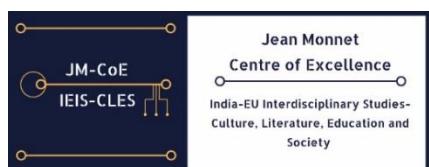
The module ‘Watching’ Europe, centered on *Cities as Sites of Culture*, investigates the visuality of cities in European cinematic productions against the backdrop of the European integration process following the collapse of communism. Three interlinked thematic units of *Reminiscence*, *Relationships*, *Respatialization*, explore the historical memory of the Cold War, the human experience in changing urbanscapes, and the sociopolitical impact of EU-driven projects.

Learning Outcomes

1. Examine key events of European integration process and the resulting socio-political impact through visuality of the city portrayed in European cinematic productions
2. Explore the relationship between people and cities and its role in the construction of European society & identity
3. Comprehend the changes in the notion of spatiality of cities in the context of growing significance of global cities and global citizenry
4. Analyse the agency of cities in furthering national and EU foreign policies
5. Conceptualize original city twinning projects between India and Europe as local change agents

Course Organization

Unit 1	Feb 12- March 5	Reminiscence
W1	Lecture	Historical Overview of European cities
W2	Lecture	Cinematic representations of European cities
W3	Seminar	Reviewing <i>Rabbit à la Berlin</i>
W4	Assignment	
Unit 2	March 12-April 2	Relationship
W5	Lecture	Urbanscapes of European cities
W6	Lecture	People, cities, living, and belonging
W7	Seminar	Reviewing <i>Paris, je t'aime</i>
W8	Assignment	
Unit 3	April 9-30	Respatialization
W9	Lecture	Eurovilles: reconfiguring space, history, and identity
W10	Lecture	Futuropoleis: global cities and global citizenry
W11	Seminar	Reviewing <i>Júlia ist</i>
W12	Assessment	



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