

SAS3010 Bollywood and the Nation: Conflict lines in Modern India is a final year Bachelor's degree course.

In Spring 2019 the teaching has consisted of eight topical lectures and six seminars dedicated to various aspects of the academic writing process. The examination in the course consists of a term paper of approximately 10 pages (at 2300 characters/page). Since the middle of the term, and especially towards the end, students have received extensive individual guidance on their papers. In addition to the course curriculum, students have selected 300 pages of academic literature relevant to the topic of their papers. Alternatively, students could choose to find and select their own readings beyond Bollywood, in which case their term papers will be based on a pre-approved list of 800 pages of literature.

The intended learning outcomes of the course are as follows:

“Bollywood is not only one of the main cultural imports of India; it informs the popular imagination of its people in significant ways. Understanding some of the tenets, tropes and major films of Bollywood will allow students to understand key conflict lines in modern India. On completion, students will have:

- an ability to read films as cultural texts
- the skills to analyse important conflict lines in modern India through the prism of Bollywood
- the capacity to understand, deconstruct, and effectively use popular cultural material in their research and fieldwork.
- an ability to work independently, select essay topics, and identify and analyse relevant material.”

In a term paper, the ability to resonate critically and demonstrate independent thinking should be rewarded.

A good paper would demonstrate the ability to select examples and emphasise empirical findings that are relevant to the research question.

An excellent paper should present an independent argument. Such a paper would present a well-defined research question and relevant data. It would analyse the data in light of central arguments from the literature in a way that allows the student to also demonstrate a certain level of independent evaluation.

If in doubt about the grade, the term paper should be rewarded if it is a well-structured and well-written piece of academic writing.