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Lit 230 Bollywood Film
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Kinolab Cinematic Analysis Assignment

Kinolab is a searchable, curated collection of narrative media clips annotated for their distinctive uses of film language. The project's aim is to become the richest, most comprehensive collection of film and show clips available for non-commercial use in the United States, built from the ground up by the scholars and students using it.[1]

This semester, our class is collaborating with Kinolab to expand this open-access archive hosted by Bowdoin College. The Kinolab Cinematic Analysis assignment is designed to help you identify and prepare clips for submission to the archive, and to sharpen your cinematic analysis skills and vocabulary along the way. You will work in your facilitation groups to complete this assignment. I expect all students in the group to contribute equally to the Kinolab and Facilitation assignments. You'll have the chance to submit feedback on your performance and that of your peers at the end of the assignment. These intertwined assignments are each worth 10% of your final grade.

You will find four handouts associated with the Kinolab assignment on Blackboard:
- This one, outlining the assignment as a whole;
- Kinolab Solo Worksheet, for each group member to record their choice of clips;
- Notes for Kinolab Contributors, with guidelines for preparing and uploading clips; and
- Self- and Peer-evaluation form.

Familiarization (solo work)
1. Register with Kinolab and begin exploring its collection of clips. Notice the meta-data that accompanies each clip (number of tags, kinds of tags, clip description etc.)

2. Study Kinolab's list of film language tags. For terms you do not understand, check if there's a definition posted on the site or in the chapters you read from Ed Sikov's *Film Studies*. Watch a few clips to see if you can identify the tagged concepts.

3. Notice if there are terms important to mainstream Hindi cinema that are missing from Kinolab. Depending the clips you choose for submission, you might need to make a case to the Kinolab team for including certain terms.

Facilitation Preparation (solo, then group work):
4. Prior to your group meeting, each of you should identify 3-4 clips that would work well for Kinolab and/or for class discussion. (Use the Kinolab Solo Worksheet.)

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[1] This description is from an email from Dr. Allison Cooper, director of Kinolab. I thank her and her team for their immense generosity. Dr. Cooper shared a wealth of materials that helped me (and my TA Ruth Coolidge) conceptualize this assignment; she and her team also digitized the films we need for this assignment.

5. Talk as a group about which clips are likely to spur class discussion and which ones will just be for Kinolab submission. Make sure you discuss your rationale for choosing the clips as well as the tags you're going to use. Your group will need to land on 3-4 clips for final submission to Kinolab.

Clip Preparation and Report (group work):

6. Coordinate amongst yourselves to prepare the clips for submission. Access the Kinolab Google drive to download the relevant film. Extract and edit the sequences your group plans to submit, using QuickTime Player or other basic editing software. Be sure to read Notes for Kinolab Contributors for guidelines on preparing and submitting clips.

7. Before you upload your clips to Kinolab, you'll have to submit a group report to me. The deadline for this report will be 7-10 days after your facilitation.
   o List the name of the film and relevant production information (director, year of release, production company or distributor).
   o For each clip, provide a **title**, **time-stamp**, one-sentence **description** of the clip, and brief **rationale** behind your choice. Why these scenes and not others?
   o For each clip, provide a brief analysis that **justifies your choice of tags**. Are the tags you've chosen particularly crucial or visible/audible in the chosen sequence? Does the clip illustrate a cinematic concept that is important to Hindi cinema, but that is not currently in Kinolab's list of tags? Also consider explaining how a few of your tags interact with others in the database. What, for example, does a comparison between film form in your selected clips and other clips that have been tagged similarly reveal?

Kinolab Submission (group, then solo work):

8. Once I give you the go-ahead, figure out which of you is going to submit the group's clips to Kinolab. Be sure to credit everyone in the group when you upload your work.

9. Delete the films you downloaded from your hard drives once you are done editing and annotating the clips. The digitized films are only meant to be used for this assignment.

10. Submit the Self- and Peer-evaluation Form and your Kinolab Solo Worksheet to me.

Last but not least, check Kinolab obsessively to see if the curators have accepted and posted your submissions!