Coll-C103: Contemporary World Cinema

(A Critical Approaches course)

Summer Session 2: June 20–August 10, 2011 / MW 4-6 p.m., screenings MW 6:15 p.m., BH 205 / Prof. Justyna Beinek

This class will explore some of the most critically acclaimed and commercially successful international feature films of the past decade. We will watch movies that come from around the globe and represent national cinemas and co-productions from Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and South America. We will talk about the possibilities and limits of cinematic representation of cultures, nations, historical events, social issues, abstract ideas, collective and personal memory, gender, ethnicity, race, and/or private/public realms. We will analyze various film genres: drama, fantasy, comedy, literary adaptation, thriller, and others. We will discuss cinematographic styles that characterize contemporary world cinema. As we discuss class movies, we will define our analytical criteria and basic film theory terms. To this end we will reflect on the aim of film criticism, the difference between opinion and evaluation, various elements of film (narrative, characters, plot, point of view, mise-en-scène, composition, image, and sound), main critical approaches to film criticism, and ways of writing about film. All films shown with English subtitles.