

Summer 2017: 30 May to 30 June | Credits: 3

AS.070.278

Cutting (out) the

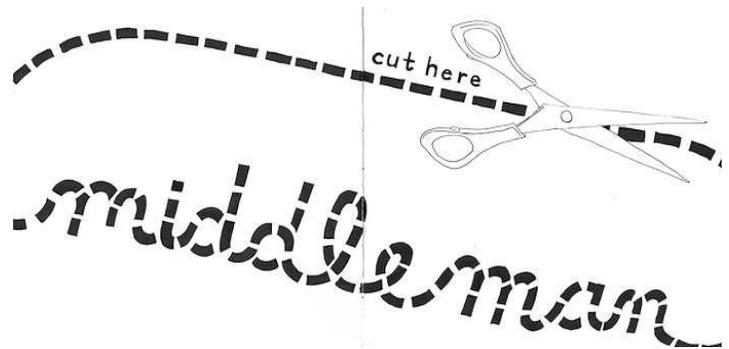
Instructor: Benita Menezes

Email: bmeneze1@jhu.edu

Classroom: TBA

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday : 1:00-3:15

Office Hours: Tuesday 4-5 pm (Room 426)



Course Description:

The middleman is popularly conceived as a person who acts as a bridge or interface between two parties, usually for a fee. The figure of the middleman, however has often been cast in a negative light as an exploitative element in social relationships. Rather than assume the middleman to be a given entity, this course rethinks the category of the middleman, by focusing on how specific social milieus shape practices, politics and networks of mediation that exceed the physical figure itself. Through discussions based on ethnography, fiction and film, this course will thus, cut the middleman “out” of everyday life and draw mediation into our field of vision. The readings will explore the work of mediation in a range of everyday activities such as trade, marriage, markets, land deals, local politics, and media. For each class, the instructor will provide a lecture which will be followed by a student-led discussion.

Course Requirements:

All students are required to attend each class and come prepared having done the readings for class-discussion. Readings will be made available to you electronically via Blackboard. One copy of each work of fiction will be kept on reserve at the library but students can also procure these themselves. In writing the final papers, please be aware of the issues of plagiarism and academic integrity. These issues are outlined in the guide “Academic Ethics for Undergraduates” on the Ethics Board website http://eng.jhu.edu/wse/asen_undergraduate_handbook/academic-ethics-manual. Citations and Documentation: Sources should be documented according to the conventions of the Author-Date System of the Chicago Manual of Style (www.chicagomanualofstyle.org).

Course Evaluation:

Class Attendance: (20% of grade) Attendance is required. Multiple absences will compromise your grade. Please inform the instructor in advance if you have to miss class due to health reasons or unforeseen circumstances.

Student Presentation and Participation: (30% of grade) Active participation in class discussions and in lectures is encouraged. Each student will be asked to lead a classroom discussion for the readings/ film/ novel for that class. You should develop a powerpoint presentation and include discussion questions that touch on specific themes, examples or concepts of interest to you from the readings.

Final Paper: (50% of grade) each student will develop a final paper in the format of a wikipedia entry/ blog/ poster on the four thematics of the course or a topic of their choice that emerges for them from the course materials. Students are encouraged to discuss their project ideas with the instructor and submit a 2 page project plan on Blackboard by June 15, 2017. The final paper should be 8-10 pages double-spaced with 12 point font and a printed copy should be submitted to the Instructor's mailbox by July 10, 2017 at 5 pm.

Course Syllabus

Week	Dates	Readings
Week One:	May 30	Introductions
	June 1	<p><u>Theme One: Traders, Middlemen, Brokers in Africa</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Nwabughuogu, Anthony I. "From wealthy entrepreneurs to petty traders: the decline of African middlemen in Eastern Nigeria, 1900-1950." <i>Journal of African History</i> 23, no. 3 (1982): 365-379. (2016)2. James, Deborah. "The return of the broker: consensus, hierarchy, and choice in South African land reform." <i>Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute</i> 17, no. 2 (2011): 318-338.3. Gabre-Madhin, Eleni Z. "Of markets and middlemen: The role of brokers in Ethiopia." (1999).
Week Two:	June 5	<i>Jana Aranya</i> (1976) directed by Satyajit Ray (131 mins)
	June 6	<i>Khosla ka Ghosla</i> (2006) directed by Dibakar Banerjee (135 mins)
	June 8	<i>Discussions on Film Screenings and submission of one page critical review on a film of your choice.</i>
Week Three:	June 12	<p><u>Theme Two: The Fixer from South Asia</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Reddy, G. Ram, and Gudavarthy Haragopal. "The Pyraveekar: The Fixer" in Rural India." <i>Asian Survey</i> 25, no. 11 (1985): 1148-1162.2. Das, Veena. "Corruption and the possibility of life." <i>Contributions to Indian Sociology</i> 49, no. 3 (2015): 322-343.3. Sud, Nikita. 2014. "The men in the middle: a missing dimension in global land deals." <i>Journal of Peasant Studies</i> 41, no. 4: 593-612.
	June 13	<i>Krakovsky, Marina, and T. A. F. E. Holmesglen. 2016. The Middleman Economy: How Brokers, Agents, Dealers, and Everyday Matchmakers Create Value and Profit. Springer. (selected chapters)</i>
	June 15	<p><u>Theme Three: A Plethora of Cultural Brokers</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Szasz, Margaret Connell, ed. <i>Between Indian and White worlds: The cultural broker</i>. University of Oklahoma Press, 2001. (selected chapters)

2. Ginsburg, Faye. "Mediating culture: indigenous media, ethnographic film, and the production of identity." *Fields of vision: Essays in film studies, visual anthropology, and photography* (1995): pp.256-91.
3. Mukherjee, Bharati. *The Middleman and other stories*. Grove Press, 1999.

Week Four: June 19

Theme Four: Circuits of Transnational Brokers

1. Maunaguru, Sidharthan and Nicholas Van Hear. 2012. Transnational Marriage in Conflict Settings: War, Dispersal and Marriage among Sri Lankan Tamils, in Katharine Charsley (ed) *Transnational Marriage: New Perspectives from Europe and Beyond*.
2. Mathews, Gordon. "African Logistics Agents and Middlemen as Cultural Brokers in Guangzhou." *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs* 44, no. 4 (2016): 117-144.
3. Min, Han, and J. S. Eades. "Brides, bachelors and brokers: The marriage market in rural Anhui in an era of economic reform." *Modern Asian Studies* 29, no. 04 (1995): 841-869.

June 20

Theme Five: Underworld Trade in the Indian Ocean

Collen, Lindsey. 2004. *Boy*. Bloomsbury Publishing, UK

June 22

Collen, Lindsey. 2004. *Boy*. Bloomsbury Publishing, UK

Week Five: June 26

Abdulrazzak, Gurnah. 2011. *The Last Gift*. Bloomsbury Publishing, UK

June 27

Abdulrazzak, Gurnah. 2011. *The Last Gift*. Bloomsbury Publishing, UK

June 29

Final Student Presentations on topics of their choice of their draft wikipedia/blog/poster.