**HARC1009: Bollywood and Beyond**

**Response Assignment #1**

**Due at the beginning of class on Thursday, 08 January**

Compare and contrast *Shri 420* and *Mother India* (choose ONE topic to respond to in 500-750 words. Refer to *specific scenes* to make your points)

1. Reflect on some of the ways in which various polarities are played out (rural/urban; good/bad; “traditional Indian”/westernized Indian; naïve/cunning, truthful/deceitful, greedy/sacrificial, etc.) in both films. How do these polarities convey the dominant social message for each film, and how are they similar or different? Are they optimistic or pessimistic?

2. Compare and contrast the characterization of women in each film. What kinds of women are portrayed and how do they relate to the men in the film? What social models are available and how do the women accept—or reject—them? What is the take-home message of this film about women and their varying forms of femininity?

3. Compare and contrast the roles of the men in each film. What types of men are represented? What social models are available and how do the men accept—or reject—them? How do they relate to women and to each other? What is the take-home message of this film about men and their varying forms of masculinity?