

EGO 114 Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice

[4 credits, 48 hours]

Objectives:

1. To challenge the hierarchies of traditional literary theories.
2. To attempt a dialogue between margin and centre by foregrounding the cultural objects of mass culture.
3. This course explores the evolution of cultural studies through the models evolved by thinkers like Matthew Arnold, F.R. Leavis, Adorno, etc.
4. To offer students a series of social, political and cultural ideas or questions that key historic movements and generic tendencies of cinema have triggered and enable them to apply the culture studies approach to cinema.

Learning Outcome:

This course encourages the student to respond to cultural products in order to understand the ideas propounded by the thinkers of cultural studies. It will enable students to review films in a critical and analytical manner.

Course Content:

I. Evolution, Concepts and Methodologies [8 contact hours]

- i) Matthew Arnold
- ii) F. R. Leavis
- iii) Raymond Williams
- iv) Roland Barthes
- v) Theodore Adorno
- vi) Gayatri Chakravorty-Spivak

II. Transformation and Transgression [8 contact hours]

Films to be screened and analysed:

- i) Family and Female Sexuality: *Kya Kehna*
- ii) Politics and Marginality: *Mr. and Mrs. Iyer*

III. Cultural Hybridity and Indian Diasporas.

[8 contact hours]

Films to be screened and analysed:

i) *Monsoon Wedding*

ii) *Bend It Like Beckham*

IV. Nation, Nationhood and Cultural Otherness.

[8 contact hours]

Films to be screened and analysed:

i) *The Legend of Bhagat Singh*

ii) *Border*

V. Globalization, Market Economy and the Third World

[8 contact hours]

Postcolonialism, Multiculturalty and the rise of ethnocentric identities

VI. Ecological Issues and Environment

[8 contact hours]

Current problems and Perspectives

i) Sustainable Development–Mhadei Project

ii) Eco-Tourism and alternate lifestyles

iii) Sharing of Resources–Local and Global

References:

Bhabha, Homi K. *The Location of Culture*.

During, Simon, editor. *The Cultural Studies Reader*.

Eagleton, Terry. *The Idea of Culture*.

Easthope, Antony. *Literary into Cultural Studies*.

Williams, Raymond. *Keywords*.