Open Courses

MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY

SYLLABI FOR OPEN COURSES - UG PROGRAMMES 2017 ADMISSIONS ONWARDS

COURSE 1 – Appreciating Films

Course Code EN5CROP01

Title of the course - Appreciating Films

Semester in which the course is to be taught-   5

No. of credits 4

No. of contact hours 72

AIM OF THE COURSE

The course seeks to introduce the student to the major elements that constitute cinema. Also the attempt will be to equip the student to academically discuss cinema in terms of critiques and close analyses.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

On completion of the course, the student should be able to discern the following:

1. The broad contours of the history and aesthetics of films.

2. The overarching film genres and the basic terminology of film studies.

3. The distinction between mere appreciation of films and sustained ideological film analysis.

4. The questions raised by Cultural Studies and Feminism(s) in their encounter with films.

5. The issues raised by cinematic adaptations of literature.

   COURSE OUTLINE

Module 1 (Broad Film Genres) (18 hours)

Lumiere vs. Melies [Arrival of a Train vs. An Impossible Voyage]

Narrative Cinema vs. Documentary Cinema

Hollywood Style as Norm - Roland Emmerich's Independence Day (1996)

German Expressionism - F.W. Murnau's Nosferatu (1922)

Neo-realism - Vittorio De Sica's Bicycle Thieves (1948)

Module 2 (Film Languages) (18 hours)

Montage Theory: [Clippings from Eisenstein's Battleship Potemkin and Chaplin's Modern Times]

Mise-en-scene: [The opening sequence from Werner Herzog's Aguirre, Wrath of God (1972) and the infamous _horse head' scene from Francis Ford Coppola's The Godfather (1972)]

Deep Focus, the Long Take and psychological representation: [Select scenes from Orson Welles' The Magnificent Ambersons (1942)]

Jump Cut (anti-seamless-dissolve) [Examples from Godard's Breathless (1960)]

Module 3 (Reading Films) (18 hours)

Cinema and Ideology/Identity Politics

[Kamal Haasan's Hey Ram (2000) and Shaji Kailas's] Aaraam Thampuran (1997)]

Cinema and Feminism

[Rajkumar Hirani's PK (2014) and K. G. George's Aadaminte Variyellu (1983))

Module 4 (Film Adaptations) (18 hours)

Shakespeare/Hamlet: Vishal Bhardwaj's Haider (2014)

Basheer/Mathilukal: Adoor Gopalakrishnan's Mathilukal (1990)

Films Recommended for Background Viewing

George Melies: An Impossible Voyage

Lumiere brothers: Arrival of a Train

Sergei Eisenstein: Battleship Potemkin

Charlie Chaplin: Modern Times

Werner Herzog: Aguirre, Wrath of God

Francis Ford Coppola: The Godfather

Orson Welles: The Magnificent Ambersons

Jean Luc-Godard: Breathless

V. K. Prakash: Karmayogi [Malayalam]

Core Text: Appreciating Films