

Semester III

Module 1: Film and Music

Introduction:

This module is designed to introduce students to the interpretation of film and music as texts. The ideas of film and music as art forms – its method and thematic possibilities are explored. Through the film text of Rashomon, the concept of reality, representation and ontological indeterminacy is addressed. Students are encouraged to develop this model of analysis to the film forms that they are familiar with. Parallel to the idea of the analysing spectator is the understanding of the informed listener. In the second part of the module, the students are introduced to the social politics of western musical forms. This becomes the entry point through which they are also exposed to the cultural evolution of folk music in India. Listening sessions that have selections from all these genres of musical forms, serve to get students to analyse the way we understand music and respond to its underlying thematic forms.

Objectives:

- Spectatorship and analysis of film texts
- Understanding visual narratives and their techniques.
- Film as an art form in its methods of representing reality
- Understanding music as a listener.
- Socio-political movements and the rise of musical forms
- Folk music and its cultural forms of expression.

1. Film as Art – David Bordwell.
2. The Rashomon Effect – Stephen Prince
3. The history of American protest music, from “Yankee Doodle” to Kendrick Lamar – Bridgett Henwood
4. In search of the Gypsy music of Rajasthan – Alex Shoumatoff
5. WAAH! The Ecstatic exclamation of appreciation – Haresh Bakshi

Module 2: Science, Society and Rationality

Introduction:

This module specifically acquaints the students with scientific writing. The prescribed selections serve to draw attention to the importance of the societal value of the scientific method. In doing so, students are expected to engage with the evolution of scientific ideas within society and their larger significance. The methods of scientific discovery and the ways in which we perceive ourselves amongst nature as a thinking being is also explored.

Objectives:

- Understanding the scientific method
- Exposure to science writing
- The social significance of scientific temper
- Examining humankind as a embedded in rationality.
- Understanding the evolution of scientific reasoning.

1. Seven Wonders – Lewis Thomas
2. Darwin's Middle Road – Stephen Jay Gould
3. The Nature of Scientific Reasoning – Jacob Bronowski

Semester IV

Novellas

This paper exposes students to reading longer forms of fiction through the prescribed novels. The novels predominantly focus on the themes of marginalisation and identity within the respective societies. The students are encouraged to engage in discussions that are local to the text. The novels are analysed both thematically and as products of literature of a particular political history. Critiques of reading, analysis and interpretation of fiction and its authors are explored.

Objectives:

- Reading longer forms of fiction
- An appreciation of inter-cultural marginality as mirrored in the Indian and Latin American experience.
- Comparison of literary discourses
- Thematic analysis of texts
- Socio-cultural politics of writing novels
- Critique and analysis of reading and authorship

1. Chomana Dudi – Shivaram Karanth
2. The House on Mango Street – Sandra Cisneros