

7. Cinema, Gender and Society

Schedule: Academic Year (2021-22) Duration: 60 hours

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A Note on the Course

Cinema, Gender and Society examines ways in which gender is constructed and articulated across a range of moving images and genres. The course will introduce students to a wide range of theoretical frameworks and help them develop analytical approaches responsive to cinematic texts.

The course will examine a series of selected films highlighting issues important from the perspective of gender and its representation.

Course Objectives:

This course engages with the ways in which gender is constructed, performed and represented across a range of moving image forms and genres. The objectives of the course are –

- To familiarize students with cinema, gender and its social articulation in wide variety of contexts
- To understand the cultural politics of gender and its representation on screen with a focus on but not restricted to the Indian context.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the course, students will be able to –

- Understand the different dimensions of the representation of gender and sexuality across a range of films and film texts.
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of key concepts of gender and identity
- show familiarity with different modes of film analysis
- To participate in informed discussions, and generate written work on the themes and issues explored in the course.

Module 1: Gender and Society: Gender identity; gender and sexuality; social construction of masculinity and femininity; LGBTQ; Gender and inequality.

Module 2: Gender and Cinema: Understanding visual culture; gender representation; representation and under-representation; stereotypes in film; feminist film theory; gender in film industry.

Module 3: Cinema and Society: tradition and modernity in cinema; themes in conventional cinema; the middle-class and the Indian cinema; societal tropes in cinema.

Assessment

The course will have following modes of assessment:

- ◆ Classroom participation - 15%
- ◆ an extended written text of 1000 - 1500 words on the subject related topics -25%
- ◆ Critical Reflection of two Films - 30%
- ◆ Test -30%

● **Suggestive Readings**

Books:

- Bordwell & Thompson Film Art: An Introduction, McGraw-Hill, 1993
- Sue Thornham (1999) Feminist Film Theory: A Reader. Edinburgh: University of Edinburgh Press.
- Dennison and Lim: Remapping World Cinema: Identity Culture and Politics in Film
- Chapman: Cinemas of the World: Film and Society from 1895 to the Present

- Turner, G. *Film as Social Practice*, 4rd edition, Routledge, 2006.
- Sharon Smith, "Introduction: The Image of Women in Film," in *FFT*, pp. 9-13.
- Judith Mayne, "Female Authorship Reconsidered," *The Woman at the Keyhole: Feminism and Women's Cinema* (Indiana University Press, 1990), 89-123.
- Judith Butler (1988) "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: An Essay in Phenomenology and Feminist Theory" in *Theatre Journal*, Vol. 40, No. 4 (Dec., 1988) pp.519-531
- Lauren Rabinovitz, "Maya Deren and an American Avant-garde Cinema," in *Points of Resistance: Women, Power & Politics in the New York Avant-garde Cinema, 1943-1971* (University of Illinois Press, 2003), 49-91.
- *Psychoanalysis and Feminism: Freud, Reich, Laing and Women* . New York: Vintage, 1975
- Laura Mulvey. "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema," *Screen* 16.3 (Autumn 1975
- Bordo, Susan. *Unbearable Weight: Feminism, Western Culture, and the Body*. University of California Press, 2004. ISBN: 978052024054. [Preview with Google Books]
- Karlyn, Katherine Rowe. *Unruly Girls, Unrepentant Mothers: Redefining Feminism on Screen*. University of Texas Press, 2011. ISBN: 9780292737549. [Preview with Google Books]
- Thornham, Sue, ed. *Feminist Film Theory: A Reader*. NYU Press, 1999. ISBN: 9780814782446.

Youtube

- Ways of Seeing (BBC, 1972) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1GI8mNU5Sg>
- <http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/lana-wachowski-reveals-suicide-plan-382169>

