

St. Joseph's College of Commerce

(Autonomous)

#163, Brigade Road, Bangalore - 560025



Department of English

B.Com/BBA/BA/B.Sc Additional English

Sem III

Academic Year 2024-25

B.Com/BBA/B. A/B. Sc Additional English – Semester III

Society and Justice

Course Description:

The course paper on Crime and Society aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the relationship between crime and society. It explores the causes, consequences, and implications of criminal behavior within the broader social context. The paper delves into the literary perspectives on crime, examining how various social factors, such as socioeconomic status, education, family structure, and community dynamics, contribute to the occurrence of criminal activities. The paper also tries to understand the idea of resistance, justice and the role of social institutions, such as the family, schools, and the criminal justice system, in shaping individual behaviour and responses to crime.

Course Objective:

- This course provides various perspectives of crime, law, punishment, and justice.
- Students will be exposed to various critical instances of punishment and perceived sense of justice through varied forms of narratives.
- Students will be encouraged to explore different texts which will help them in framing their arguments and responses.

Course Outcomes:

After completing the course, the students will be able to,

- display an understanding of the idea of law and justice within the framework of a society
- demonstrate the nuances of crime and criminality designed as per the cultural and political history of the judiciary
- articulate complexities of societal structure and administration of justice
- respond and participate in debates on ethical issues

Module 1: Crime and Society (15 hours)

1. The supreme Court's examination of Death Sentencing is the first step to a justice system aimed at Redemption - CP Shruthi & Baljeet Kaur (Article - scroll.in)
2. Cell One - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (Short Story)
3. Green Mile - 1999 (Movie)
4. Capital Punishment - Edgar Albert Guest (Poem)

Module 2: Resistance v/s Crime (15 hours)

5. The State is Lawless - Soni Suri (An essay from *India Dissents*, ed. by Ashok Vajpeyi)
6. The Life of Galileo Galilei - Bertolt Brecht (Extract from the Play - the Inquisition Scene and the Pope)
7. Dopdi - Mahashwetha Devi (Short Story)

Module 3: Ethics and Justice (15 hours)

8. Justice - Langston Hughes (Poem)
9. "Storytelling beings" - What's the right thing to do? - Michael Sandel (Essay)
10. Lamb to the slaughter - Roald Dahl (Short Story)

Extended Reading:

1. 12 Angry Men - 1957 (Movie)
2. A Time to Kill - 1996 (Movie)
3. How To Kill a Mockingbird (Novel / movie)
4. Gaon Chodab Nahi (Song)
5. The Long Exile - Leo Tolstoy (Short Story)
6. Stanford Jail Experiment - 2015 (Movie)
7. The Jungle Justice - Michael Emeka (Short Story)
8. Won't obey laws that condemn man - Raj Napal (Poem)

CIA Activities

1. Case Studies/ Presentation on various community conflicts with the authorities (E.g., Niyamgiri Dongria tribes)
2. Interviewing police authorities or lawyers (even law students) on their idea of law and justice OR Interviewing victims of hate crime (Marginalized communities)
3. One-act play on the above themes
4. Mock UN Law Summit with respect to crime and justice.
5. Class Test or viva