



**FIRST SEMESTER 2021-2022**

Course Handout Part II

Date: 20-8-2021

In addition to Part-I (General Handout for all courses appended to the time table) this portion gives further specific details regarding the course.

Course No. : HSS F244  
Course Title : Crime and New Media  
Instructor-in-Charge : Anhiti Patnaik

**Course Description:**

Debates about the representation of crime and consumption of violent images in new media are among the most sustained and divisive in popular culture today. The popularity of the figure of the serial killer, vigilante, psychopath, pervert, mafia, and cyber-stalker is nothing but a testament to the 'culture of crime' that we live in. This course examines how graphic representations of violence are normalized in new media through biological, psychoanalytic, social disorganization, and feminist theories of Criminology. Students will critically analyse representations of violence across six new media in India and America, namely, Netflix films and documentaries, graphic novels, Youtube videos, news reports, and recreational websites that they engage with on daily basis. They will understand how issues of class, race, and gender produce moral panics and intersect in the criminalization of certain marginal groups in society.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Define key terms and concepts of Criminology.
2. Learn different theoretical approaches of Criminology: Biological, Psychoanalytic, Social Disorganization, and Feminist theories
3. Analyze contemporary visual and cultural texts of new media using these approaches. (Trigger warnings will be issued accordingly).
4. Evaluate ethical positions of spectatorship and mass consumption.

**Textbook:**

1. Rafter, Nicole, and Michelle Brown. *Criminology Goes to the Movies: Crime Theory and Popular Culture*. New York and London: New York University Press, 2011.

**Reference Book:**

1. McLaughlin, Eugene, and John Muncie. *The SAGE Dictionary of Criminology* 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ed. London and New Delhi: SAGE Publications, 2001

**Course Plan:**

| Lecture No. | Learning objectives | Topics to be covered   | Chapter in the Text Book |
|-------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1-3         | Define new media    | Six types of new media | Lecture                  |



|       |  |   |                |
|-------|--|---|----------------|
|       | and methods                                | Critical Criminology<br>Evaluation scheme   | Notes          |
| 4-6   | Learn list of key words                    | Abnormal, Anomie, Atavism, Carceral Society, Conditioning, Degeneration, Deterrence, Deviance, Heredity, Hate Crime, Mens rea, Moral Panic, Normalization, Perversion, Psychopathy, Trauma, Somatotyping, Vigilantism, Hybristophilia | Reference Book |
| 7-14  | Critique Biological Theories               | Born Criminal, Eugenics, Detective Fiction  | TB Pg. 28-46   |
| 15-22 | Examine Psychoanalytic Theories            | Psychopathy, Forensics, and Serial Killing  | TB Pg. 47-66   |
| 23-30 | Comprehend Social Disorganization Theories | Sociopaths, Vigilantism, Organized Crime, Cyberbullying   | TB Pg. 67-82   |
| 31-38 | Apply Feminist Theories                    | Female Offender and Law Enforcement, Social Rights Movements  | TB Pg. 153-166 |
| 39-43 | Read Ethics of Spectatorship               | Empathy, Hybristophilia   | Lecture Notes  |

#### Evaluation Scheme:

| Component          | Duration in Minutes | Weightage (%) | Date & Time              | Nature of Component |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Assignment         | 50                  | 20            | TBA                      | OB                  |
| Mid-Semester Exam  | 90                  | 30            | 22/10/2021 3.30 - 5.00PM | OB                  |
| Test               | 30                  | 10            | TBA                      | OB                  |
| Comprehensive Exam | 120                 | 40            | 24/12 FN                 | CB                  |

**Consultation Hour:** A google meet link with consultation hours will be shared on CMS.

**Notices:** Notices, if any, concerning the course will be displayed on CMS.

**Make-up Policy:** Students must request alternative dates/modes of evaluation at least a day before the deadline. Last-minute make-up or late submissions will not be considered and the decision of the instructor will be final.

**Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy:** Academic honesty and integrity are to be maintained by all the students throughout the semester and no type of academic dishonesty is acceptable.



**Anhiti Patnaik**  
INSTRUCTOR-IN-CHARGE

