



Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani
Hyderabad Campus

FIRST SEMESTER 2020-2021

Course Handout Part II

Date: 17-8-2020

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:

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:

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



Course Plan:

Lecture	Learning Objectives	Topics to be covered	Chapter in the Text Book
1-3	Define new media and methods	Six types of new media Critical Criminology Approaches Evaluation scheme	Lecture Notes
4-6	Learn list of key words	Abnormal, Anomie, Atavism, Carceral Society, Conditioning, Degeneration, Deterrence, Deviance, Due Process, Functionalism, Heredity, Hate Crime, Mens rea, Moral Panic, Normalization, Panopticism, Perversion, Trauma, Somatotyping, Vigilantism, Hybristophilia	Reference Book
7-14	Examine Biological Theories	Born Criminal, Social Darwinism, Detective Fiction, Forensic Method.	TB Pg. 28-46
15-22	Critique Psychoanalytic Theories	Trauma and Perversion, Trigger Warning, Voyeurism, Spectacle of Punishment,	TB Pg. 47-66
23-30	Read Social Disorganization Theories	Sociopaths, Vigilantism, Terrorism, Organized Crime, Cyberbullying and trolling, Panopticism	TB Pg. 67-82
31-38	Applying Feminist Theories	Female Offender, Female Victim, Law Enforcement, Social Rights Movements	TB Pg. 153-166
39-43	Understanding Ethics of Spectatorship	Empathy, Hybristophilia, Sympathy of Comprehension	Lecture Notes

Evaluation Scheme:

Component	Duration	Weightage (%)	Date & Time	Nature of Component
Test 1	30 mins	15	September 10 – September 20 (During scheduled class hour)	OB



Test 2	30 mins	15	October 09 –October 20 (During scheduled class hour)	OB
Assignment	-	25	November 10 – November 20 (During scheduled class hour)	OB
Test 3	30 mins	15	TBA (during lecture)	OB
Comprehensive	120 mins	30	TBA	OB

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 or plagiarism is acceptable under any circumstance.

Anhiti Patnaik
INSTRUCTOR-IN-CHARGE

