



**Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani**  
Hyderabad Campus

**FIRST SEMESTER 2022-2023**

Course Handout Part II

Date: 2-9-2022

In addition to Part-I (General Handout for all courses appended to the timetable) 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* 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ed. London and New Delhi: SAGE Publications, 2001



**Core Films:**

*Frankenstein* James Whale (1931)

*Psycho* Alfred Hitchcock (1960)

*Taxidriver* Martin Scorsese (1976)

**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 Culture of Crime	Lecture Notes
4-6	Learn list of key words	Serial killer, vigilante, psychopath, pervert, mafia, and cyber-stalker	Reference
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
39-42	Understand Moral Panics	How issues of class, race, and gender produce moral panics and intersect in the criminalization of certain marginal groups in society	Lecture Notes



**Evaluation Scheme:**

Component	Duration	Weightage (%)	Date & Time	Nature of Component
Test	30 mins	10	Fri 7.10.2022 2:00 – 2:30 PM J 206	CB
Mid-Semester Exam	90 mins	30	Tue 1.11.2022 3:30 – 5:00 PM	OB
Assignment	Take Home	20	Due 16.10.2022	OB
Comprehensive Exam	120 mins	40	21.12.2022 AN	CB

**Consultation Hour:** Wednesdays 3:00-4:00 PM in Office K109

**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**

