



BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE, PILANI (RAJASTHAN)

INSTRUCTION DIVISION

Date: 02.08.2016

Course Handout

First Semester 2016-17

Course Number **GS F242**

Course Title **Cultural Studies**

Instructor In-Charge **SOMDATTA BHATTACHARYA**

Course Description

Defining "culture" and "cultural studies"--introduction to the history of the discipline of cultural studies and key thinkers and their concepts and theories--connecting the concepts/theories with the Indian context and reading and interpreting essays on thematics as varied as postcolonialism, nationalism, science, visual culture, minority studies etc. In the process introduction to and discussion of concepts such as "canon", "identity-politics", "mainstream", "minority", "knowledge/ information society", "globalization", "postmodernity"--attempting to understand both the metropolitan and the Indian perspective on cultural studies

1. Scope and Objective of the Course

The course consists of theoretical readings that are central to the discipline of Cultural Studies (CS). The aim of the course is to introduce the students to some of the main concepts in CS through theoretical essays and discussion of a wide range of examples.

The essays discussed in the class narrate a kind of history of the discipline, beginning with Raymond Williams. Owing to its sensitivity to history and the structuring force of context and locale, CS has also developed in a number of different national strands and India has been an important player in the field and





a sub-continental CS has evolved in forms and with concerns that are quite distinct from the metropolitan variants. The later essays in the course will focus on the Indian initiatives.

These readings will be supplemented with examples and case-studies that are crucial to the understanding of how a vast discipline such as CS works. Discussions will be centred on questions emerging from engagements with literary and social movements, cultural nationalism, popular culture, translation, and the new communication technologies.

2. Text Book

T-1 During, Simon. *The Cultural Studies Reader* (2nd ed). London: Routledge, 1993.

and reading material as class notes

Reference Books

R-1 Lewis, Jeff. *Cultural Studies: The Basics*. London: Sage, 2008.

R-2 Nayar, Pramod. *An Introduction to Cultural Studies*. New Delhi: Viva, 2008.

3. Course Plan

Lecture No.	Learning Objectives	Topics to be covered	Reference to Chap/Sec/Book
1-2	General Introduction: what is culture and what is CS	Definition and history of the discipline	Class Discussion
3-4	Key thinkers and their theories	Concepts and ideas	R-1, R-2, class discussion





Lecture No.	Learning Objectives	Topics to be covered	Reference to Chap/Sec/Book
5-6	Locating CS in the Indian context	Features of the variety with examples	R-2, class discussion
7-9	Understanding the thematic of culture	Analysis of the essay(s)	T-1
10-16	Understanding the thematic of nationalism	Analysis of the essay(s)	T-1
17-21	Understanding the thematic of cricket-nationalism	Analysis of the essay(s)	T-1
22-24	Understanding the thematic of science and culture studies	Analysis of the essay(s)	T-1
25-28	Understanding the thematic of visual culture	Analysis of the essay(s)	T-1
29-34	Understanding the thematic of minority narratives	Analysis of the essay(s)	T-1
35-40	Analysing examples to understand the principles behind the theses of the essays	Illustrations and case studies	T-1
41-43	Summing up		

4. Evaluation Scheme





BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE, Pilani
Pilani Campus
Instruction Division

Sl.no	Evaluation Component	Date & Time	Weight age (%)
1	Mid Semester Test (CB)	8/10 2:00 - 3:30 PM	30
2	Class test/Short assignment (OB)		10
3	Term paper (OB)		20
4	Comprehensive Exam (CB)	14/12 FN	40

- Students are expected to read newspapers and journals and have a general awareness of the current socio-political scenario of the country
- Chamber Consultation Hour:** To be announced in the class

Instructor In-charge

GS F242



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