



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

**SECOND SEMESTER 2024-2025**

**Course Handout Part II**

Date: 06-01-2025

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.: GS F242**

**Course Title: Cultural Studies**

**Instructor-in-Charge: Spandan Bhattacharya**

### **Course Description:**

This course provides an introduction to Cultural Studies as a field and practice, the different approaches and their relation to Critical Theory and Literary Criticism. Students learn the basic tenets of Marxism, Feminism, Psychoanalysis, Structuralism, Media and Communication Studies, Film Studies, and Art History/Criticism. Students will also examine the societal impact, business relevance, and effects of myriad practices, institutions, beliefs and varied social structures in contemporary India.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. Learn different theoretical approaches to Cultural Studies.
2. Analyze contemporary literary, visual, and cultural texts using these approaches.
3. Define key terms and concepts of Critical Theory.
4. Produce original interdisciplinary research through discourse analysis.

### **Text Book:**

Easthope, Anthony, and Kate McGowan. *A Critical and Cultural Theory Reader: 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.* Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2004

### **Reference Book:**

Barker, Chris. *The SAGE Dictionary of Cultural Studies.* London and New Delhi: SAGE Publications, 2004

Simon During, *The Cultural Studies Reader*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Routledge, 2007.



Chatterjee, Partha . *The Nation and its Fragments: Colonial and Postcolonial Histories*, Princeton University Press, 1994.

Butler, Judith. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*, Routledge, 2006.

**Course Plan:**

Lecture	Learning objectives	Topics to be covered	Chapter / Section
1-3	Defining Cultural Studies as Field and Practice	Introduction to key concepts and thinkers, problems, methodology	Reference Book
4-6	Defining key moments defining Cultural Studies (Frankfurt School debate and Cultural turn)	Introduction to culture industry debate and cultural turn	Reference Book TBA
7-11	Examine the major tenets and theories of Structuralism	Readings by Ferdinand de Saussure and Roland Barthes	Pg. 5-14
12-17	Learn the major tenets and theories of Marxism	Readings by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, and Louis Althusser	Pg. 37-50
18-22	National Identity and Cultural Representation	Imagination of nation as a community, discussion of nationalism and national identity from the western context and in India	RB 2 RB 3
23- 25	Transnational Flows: Globalization and Culture	Theories of globalization and the impact of globalization on cultural productions	RB 2
26-30	Study the major trends and theories of Psychoanalysis	Readings by Sigmund Freud	Pg. 77-80, 102-107
31-35	Examine the major trends and theories of Feminism	Readings by Simone de Beauvoir, and Judith Butler	Pg. 51-54, 184-190 RB 4
36-41	Examine the major trends and theories of Media, Film, and Communication Studies	Reading by Jean Baudrillard and Laura Mulvey	Pg. 218-20
42	Revision	Societal impact, business relevance, and effects of myriad practices, institutions, beliefs and varied social structures in contemporary India.	Lecture Notes



**Evaluation Scheme:**

Components	Duration	Weightage (%)	Date & Time	Nature of Component
Mid Sem Exam	90 mins	30	07/03 11.30 - 01.00PM	Closed Book
Assignments (1 and 2)	NA	30	TBA	Open Book
Comprehensive Exam	180 mins	40	10/05AN	Open Book

**Note:** Students must score a minimum of 20% of the overall evaluation to secure a letter grade in the course.

**Chamber Consultation Hour:** To be announced in class and on LMS

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

**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.

**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.

Spandan Bhattacharya  
INSTRUCTOR-IN-CHARGE

