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**SECOND SEMESTER 2020-21**  
**COURSE HANDOUT**

**Date: 16.01.2021**

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** : GS F242  
**Course Title** : Cultural Studies  
**Instructor-in-Charge** : Dr. Muhammed Afzal P

**1. Course Description:**

This course provides an introduction to Cultural Studies as an interdisciplinary academic field and intellectual practice. Cultural Studies examines cultural practices (which includes diverse kinds of “signifying”/meaning-making practices) and their relation to power. Blurring the distinction between “high culture” and “low culture”, Cultural Studies takes up for analysis everyday practices and contemporary popular cultural forms such as popular cinema, TV shows, advertisements, digital cultures, etc. Beginning with an overview of the field as it emerged in Britain in the 1960s, the course introduces key concepts in critical and cultural theory such as “culture”, “popular”, “contemporary”, “representation”, “discourse”, “power”, “ideology”, “articulation”, “hegemony”, “identity”, “identity-politics”, “minority”, etc. The second part of the course will take up for analysis cultural texts and practices mainly from the Indian context. Issues such as nationalism, gender, sexuality, caste, Adivasi identity, religious identity, disability, etc., will be discussed in the second part of the course.

**2. Scope and Objective of the Course:**

The course will introduce the major theoretical approaches and concepts in the field of Cultural Studies. Drawing on texts from both the global and the local contexts, the course aims to equip students to analyze cultural texts and practices from across the world by utilizing the theoretical approaches taught in the course. The students will be able to produce their own interdisciplinary research projects by the end of the course.

**3. Text Books:**

**T-1** During, Simon (ed). 2007. *The Cultural Studies Reader* (3rd ed). London: Routledge.  
Additional reading materials as class notes

**4. Reference Books:**

**R-1** Stuart Hall, Jessica Evans, and Sean Nixon. 2013. *Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices*, 2nd Edition. London: Sage Publications.

**R-2** John Storey. 2018. *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: An Introduction* (8<sup>th</sup> ed). London: Routledge.

**R-3** John Storey. 2019. *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: A Reader* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). London: Routledge.

**R-4** Barker, Chris. 2004. *The Sage Dictionary of Cultural Studies*. London: Sage Publications.



## 5. Course Plan:

Module No.	Lecture Session	Reference	Learning outcomes
1-4 Introduction to Cultural Studies	The concepts of “culture” and “popular culture”; a brief history of Cultural Studies; theoretical legacies of Cultural Studies; brief introduction to Marxism, Structuralism, Post-structuralism and Feminism	TB-1. Simon During. “Introduction”  TB-1. Stuart Hall. “Cultural Studies and Its Theoretical Legacies”  R-2: “What is Popular Culture”  Additional Reading Materials	To understand the various ways in which culture has been studied and understood, and to understand the emergence and growth of the field of Cultural Studies
5-9 Key Concepts in Cultural Studies	Discussion of key concepts in Cultural Studies: Representation, Discourse, Identity, Subjectivity, Ideology, Hegemony, and Articulation	R1- Stuart Hall. “The Work of Representation”  R-3 Antonio Gramsci. “Hegemony, Intellectuals and the State”  R-4- Relevant entries  Additional Reading Materials	To develop an understanding of the key concepts in the field of Cultural Studies
10- 12 A Brief History of Cultural Studies in India	The emergence of Cultural Studies in India; its trajectories; its major concerns; brief introduction to Subaltern Studies, Women’s movement, and Dalit Studies; study of popular cinema in India	Reading Materials:  M Madhava Prasad. “Cultural Studies in India: Reasons and a History”.  Tejaswini Niranjana. “The Desire for Cultural Studies”  Bhaskar Mukhopadhyay. “Cultural Studies and Politics in India Today”	To understand the trajectory of Cultural Studies in India and its major concerns which will be taken up in detail in the later part of the course
13-17	nation, nationalism, nation-state, print capitalism, nation	TB-1 pp. 258-263 “Imagined Communities:	Understand key



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**Pilani Campus**  
**AUGS/ AGSR Division**

Nation and Nationalism	as an imagined community, national identity, identification, linguistic nationalism and regional identities, the role of cultural productions in the production of linguistic identities	Nationalism's Cultural Roots"  R4-Relevant entries  Additional Reading Materials  Literary Texts/Films for discussion (to be announced)	terms of discussions on nationalism and critically analyze cultural texts in the light of the concepts discussed in the course
18-23  Visual Culture	Discussion of photography, calendar arts, cartoons, advertisements, cinema, etc.; the political dimension of visual culture; imagining identities through visual culture	Reading Materials  Calendar art, photographs, films, and advertisements for discussion (to be announced)	To understand the dynamics of visual culture and to analyze the political dimension of visual culture in contemporary India
24-27  Caste, Democracy and Culture	Caste in contemporary India; Caste and modern identities; caste and democracy; caste and political participation, rise of Dalit literature; Dalit popular; Dalit Studies as India studies	Reading Materials  Literary Texts/Films for discussion (to be announced)	To understand the historical origin of caste and to locate caste in the contemporary context through key events/processes
28-34  Gender, sexuality and body	Social construction of gender identities; gender and popular culture; gender and public spaces; femininity and masculinity; intersectionality; social construction of sexuality; heterosexuality and homosexuality; Queer studies; sexuality in popular culture; Notions of (able) body, (dis)ability, desirability; disability and sexuality; disability and access to public spaces	TB-1: Judith Butler. "Subversive Bodily Acts".  R2 152-183 "Gender and Sexuality" R4-Relevant entries  Additional Reading Materials  Literary Texts/Films for discussion (to be announced)	To understand the history and contemporary debates on gender, sexuality and body and to critically analyze the representation of gender, sexuality, and body in literary and cultural texts



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**Pilani Campus**  
**AUGS/ AGSR Division**

35-37 Adivasi Identity in Contemporary India	Adivasi identity in contemporary India; representation of Adivasis in literary and cultural texts; Adivasi self-representations; development and cultural identity	Reading Materials  Films/Literary Texts for Discussion (to be announced)	To understand the framework of the study and representation of Adivasi identity in India
38-40 Religion and Culture: The Minority Question	The concepts of “minority” and “other”; representation of religious minorities in popular culture	R-1. Stuart Hall “The Spectacle of the Other” R-4: Relevant entries Additional Reading Material Films/Literary Texts for discussion (to be announced)	To understand the framework of the study and representation of minority religious cultures in India
41-42	Summing up	-	-

**6. Evaluation Scheme:**

<b>Evaluation Component</b>	<b>Weightage (%)</b>	<b>Duration (Minutes)</b>	<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Nature of component (Close Book/ Open Book)</b>
Mid-semester Examination	35	90 Mins	As per the time table	Open book
Term paper/ Assignment/Short Quiz	30	-	To be announced in class	Open Book
Comprehensive Examination	35	2 Hours	As per the time table	Open Book

**7. Chamber Consultation Hour (online):** 3pm to 4pm on Tuesdays

**8. Notices:** Notices concerning the course will be displayed on Nalanda.

**9. Make-up Policy:** Make-up for an evaluation component will be allowed only in genuine cases with prior permission from the instructor, to be requested at least a week in advance.

**10. Note (if any):** Students are encouraged to read newspapers and journals to have an increased awareness of the socio-political scenario of the world; they are also encouraged to actively participate in the class, by positing arguments and listening attentively to others.

**Dr. Muhammed Afzal P**  
**Instructor-in-charge**  
**Course No. GS F242**