A Course Proposal

On

Introduction to Cultural Studies

(To be offered as UG Elective)

Submitted By

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Justification for introducing the New Course

- The takeaway for the students of a primarily science and technology institute such as IIT Kharagpur from a course such as this are many, namely the skill of critical thinking, the ability to make historical and social sense of the world they live in and to exercise judgement and responsibility as participants in that world.
- In this course, students will gain perspectives that may help them appreciate social and cultural complexity, respect difference and act in informed and ethical ways which are necessary skill sets in this post-globalised world.
- Cultural Studies methods also enable students to see how specific disciplines contribute to broader understandings and these can help them to integrate knowledge and strategies from multi-disciplinary perspectives.
- The present world problems are complex in nature and require solutions that are an amalgam of different disciplinary understandings, a point of view that can be gained from studying a course such as this.
- Peter Stearns, in his seminal essay, "Teaching Culture" asserts that undergraduate programs need precisely the "habits of mind" cultivated by cultural studies methods in order to prepare students to be world citizens capable of managing--and perhaps even energizing--the weary planet they stand to inherit. And this is one assertion which administrators and educators alike would do well to pay heed.

Lecture Distribution

Themes/sub-themes	No. of lectures
1. What is Cultural Studies?	Total – 7
1.1 Definition of culture and Cultural Studies	2
1.1 History of the discipline of Cultural Studies	1
1.2 Key Thinkers	1
1.3 Relevant Theories	3
2. Locating Cultural Studies in the Indian Context	Total – 3
2.1 History of the discipline in India	2
2.2 Major issues/concerns	1
3. Culture	Total – 2
3.1 Raymond Williams' *Keywords*	2
4. Nation and Nationalism	Total – 10
4.1 Theories and Theorists	3
4.2 Benedict Anderson's "imagined communities"	3
4.3 Indian initiatives: cricket nationalism	4

5. Popular Culture 5.1 Nature and Characteristics 5.2 Film poster art as visual culture	Total – 3 1 2
6. Gender 6. 1 Gender in the global and the Indian context 6.2. Gender and public space	Total – 3 1 2
7. Caste 7.1 Caste and Education	Total – 3 3
8. Minority Culture 8.1 Minority culture and representation	Total – 2 2
9.Cultural Colonialism 9.1 "Orientalism" 9.2 Science and Colonialism	Total – 5 3 2
	TOTAL=38