



SYMBIOSIS COLLEGE OF ARTS & COMMERCE

An Autonomous College | Under Savitribai Phule Pune University

Reaccredited 'A+' with 3.51 CGPA For Third Cycle By NAAC | College with Potential for Excellence

COURSE TITLE	Popular Literature and Culture
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Course Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of the module students will be able to:

1. Read and identify certain kinds of literature as 'popular' and 'formulaic'.
2. Distinguish literatures of popular, mass consumption from academic, elitist literatures.
3. Interpret popular genres using theoretical perspectives.
4. Connect popular texts/films to their cultural contexts of production and consumption.
5. Evaluate popular texts/films in terms of their generic patterns.
6. Write critically based on an evaluative understanding of texts and contexts.

Gist of this course in maximum 3 to 4 lines	The purpose of the course is to develop an understanding of 'Popular' culture - the world of best-sellers and popular films, through the theoretical lens of Cultural Studies. Through reading of popular genres like romance, thrillers and comics, the objective of the course is to introduce students to the theoretical discourses surrounding popular literature and culture.
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Detailed syllabus

Unit	CONTENTS OF THE COURSE	No. of Lectures
1.	Introduction	2
2.	Popular Literature and Culture - Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction</i> – Walter Benjamin • <i>The Culture Industry. Enlightenment as Mass Deception</i> – Theodore Adorno and Max Horkheimer • <i>Encoding, Decoding</i> – Stuart Hall • <i>The Institutional Matrix of Romance</i> – Janice A. Radway • <i>The Readers and their Romances</i> (from <i>Reading the Romance: Women, Patriarchy and Popular Literature</i>)– Janice A. Radway • <i>The Ideology of the Detective Story</i> (from <i>Delightful Murder. A Social History of the Crime Story</i>) – Ernest Mandel • Madhava Prasad – Ideology of Hindi Cinema 	24
3.	Popular Genres (through select reading of bestsellers)	20

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Green – <i>The Fault in Our Stars</i>• Raymond Chandler – <i>Farewell, my Lovely</i>• Ian Fleming - <i>Casino Royale</i>• Chetan Bhagat - <i>Five Point Someone</i>• Comics – <i>Captain America, Ms. Marvel, Walt Disney</i>	
4.	Films and Popular Culture Through selections from - The Godfather, Skyfall, The Da Vinci Code, Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone, Deewar, Dilwale Dulhaniya Le Jayenge,	10
5.	Assignments	4
	Total Number of Lectures	60
Teaching Methodology :	1. Classroom interactions 2. Discussions through text-readings 3. Audio-visual aid, PPT	
Suggested Reference Books: 1. <i>Cultural Studies: A Critical Introduction</i> – Simon During. Routledge, 2005 2. <i>Reading the Romance. Women, Patriarchy, and Popular Literature</i> – Janice Radway, The University of North Carolina Press, 1984. 3. “Cultural Imperialism and James Bond’s Penis” – Toby Miller, in <i>The James Bond Phenomenon: A Critical Reader</i> -Ed. Christoph Lindner. Manchester University Press, 2003 4. <i>James Bond in World and Popular Culture – The Films are Not Enough</i>. Ed. Robert G. Weiner, B. Lynn Whitfield, Jack Becker. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2011. 5. <i>Cultural Theory and Popular Culture</i> – John Storey. Pearson. 6. <i>Delightful Murder. A Social History of the Crime Story</i> – Ernest Mandel. University of Minnesota Press, 1984 7. <i>Pulp Fascism. Right Wing Themes in Comics, Graphic Novels and Popular Literature</i>. Jonathan Bowden, ed. Greg Johnson, Counter-Currents Publishing Ltd. San Francisco, 2013. 8. <i>Heroines of Comic Books and Literature. Portrayals in Popular Culture</i>. Ed. Maja Bajacarter, Norma Jones and Bob Batchelor. Rowman and Littlefield, 2014.		