

Cinema and Ideology **(With special focus on Hindi Cinema)**

Course Objective:

Cinema like any other cultural entity has a specific relation to ideology. The beliefs, ideas, values, roles and images that tie a society together find reflection in art and other cultural products. Thus, cinema, like other cultural products, forms, reinforces as well as challenges the dominant ideology of society. Our notions of our self, the self and the other, masculinity and femininity, citizenship and nationality find expression in films that are consumed as pure entertainment. Cinema is the most popular form of cultural expression and therefore plays a pivotal role in shaping the consciousness of a people. Hence, a course that will enable students to become a critically intelligent audience should prove valuable.

Course Plan:

Important and interesting Hindi films will be viewed and discussed in the context of the social, political and economic background of the time of their making and reception. Students will do a comparative analysis of different versions of the same theme (eg, Devdas), films and the literature that is their origin (eg, Paheli and Vijay Dan Detha's Duvidha), as well as films made in different periods (eg, the 1950s -post independence films and 1990s films made in the time of globalisation) Students would read some key texts in film theory and get a basic understanding of certain essential critical concepts. Students will also read key texts that address questions of gender, nationality, caste, class and environment.

Methodology:

A few introductory lectures, Film Viewing, Group Discussions, Guest Lectures, Library Work, Paper Presentations, Individual Projects.