

Samar Nakhate
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Understanding Films

Course Objective:

This course aims at helping students develop a method / sense of Film Appreciation & Analysis that will be valuable throughout their life. It will try to help them develop a love of Art and a basic understanding of the language of films. They will also be exposed to different types of Cinema, will be able to understand and 'decipher' it, understand the technical basics of filmmaking. Ultimately they should become intelligent viewers capable of analyzing the relevance of cinema to society and themselves.

Topics we will explore over this course:

- Introduction to Cinema.
- Nature of the film medium.
- Brief history of Cinema
- Film Experience and Expectations.
- Film as a moving image – Narrative- Spatial-Temporal, Audiovisual Nature-Structure.
- Technical, Symbolic, Audio, Written, Graphic codes & Conventions.
- Understanding – Analysing – Appreciating.
- Genre – Indian Cinema & Cinema of the world.
- Story, Plot, Sequence, Scene, Structure.
- How are films made? Film- Art - Commerce – Industry.
- Films & other Arts.
- Films – Audience – Culture – Ideology.

Course Methodology:

The sessions will be combinations of film viewing and discussions. Interactive dialogue, basic lectures (History – Technical – Aesthetic) and exercises that emphasize Appreciation – Analysis – Comprehension of films.

There will be presentations, group discussions to enjoy the richer experience from purposeful conjunction with real viewing & theory. Every class session will include a viewing of film clips & other related material. Additional full-length feature film viewing is mandatory. Students will visit local cinema halls and film festivals. Students are welcome to bring any film material they find interesting to class to discuss and analyse in the classroom.

Bibliography :

How to read a film	by James Monaco.
Cinemachi Gosht (Marathi)	by Anil Zankar.
Hindi cinema ka Itihaas (Hindi)	by Manmohan Chaddha.
Indian Film	by Erik Barnow, S.Krushnaswami.
Indian Cinema Past & Present	by Firoze Rangoonwalla

Filmography:

Pather Panchali, Charulata, Mahanagar – by Satyajit Ray.
Few films by Raj Kapoor, Guru Datt, Benegal Shayam.
Few regional language films.
Few Main Stream Popular Hindi films.
Few Hollywood Classics, & contemporary films.
Few films from Japan, France, Italy.