

## M.A. LCS Course Descriptions (August-November 2018)

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Film Analysis</b>
<b>Course Code</b>	LCS 152
<b>Semester</b>	I and III
<b>No. of Credits</b>	5
<b>Name of Faculty Member(s)</b>	Satish Poduval
<b>Course Description: (100 words)</b>	<p>The scholarly analysis of film as a medium (of creative expression, commercial practice, mass entertainment, political intervention—and more) engages broadly with two distinct sorts of questions: (1) what textual core/boundary constitutes the <i>object</i> of film analysis; and (2) what set of interpretive activities make up the <i>subjective dimensions</i> of this field? This course aims to introduce you to different ways of interpreting films, by engaging with key theoretical texts and exercises in practical analyses of a broad range of cinematic texts.</p> <p>Please note that light entertainment and “film appreciation” are <i>not</i> the aims of this course!</p>
<b>Evaluation Scheme</b>	<p><b>Internal</b> (2 short response papers plus mid-semester assignment): <b>40 %</b> <b>External</b> (end-semester assignment) : <b>60 %</b></p>

Course Title & Credits	<b>A Beginner's Guide to Cultural Studies</b>
Course Code	LCS 101
Semester	I & III
No. of Credits	5
Name of Faculty Member(s)	Parthasarathi Muthukkaruppan
Course Description	<p>Cultural Studies is an interdisciplinary approach to reading culture which combines the reading strategies of the humanities with empirical methods drawn from the social sciences. Culture in Cultural Studies includes traditional fields like literature, cinema, television and the arts, but also popular cultural and social practices and questions of power and ideology. The course introduces important concepts, tools of analysis and themes in Cultural Studies. The readings cover theories of discourse, representation, subjectivity and identity, and questions of gender, caste and class. Cultural Studies training aims to equip students to understand the world and to respond to it as critical but engaged citizens.</p>
Evaluation Scheme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Active participation in classroom discussions and short written responses 40%</li> <li>2. Final exam/assignment 60%</li> </ol>

Course Title & Credits	<b>Theories of the Subject</b>
Course Code	LCS 103
Semester	I and III
No. of Credits	5
Name of Faculty Member(s)	Dilip K Das
Course Description	<p>One of the fundamental concepts in cultural analysis is that of the subject, understood in two complementary ways, as both the agent of culture and its prime effect. Humanist accounts emphasize the former, while those based on structuralist theory emphasize the latter, viewing subject-formation as the outcome of the functioning of normative structures. The first part of the course examines three influential structuralist accounts of the subject, in language (Benveniste), psychoanalysis (Lacan), and cultural theory (Althusser). If the subject both acts and is acted on by cultural norms, what is the hinge that connects the two? One answer lies in Foucault's concept of 'practices of self,' about the ways in which one performatively inhabits the norms of subjectivity. We will next look at accounts of performativity, which extend this argument in different ways, to understand how it may connect processes of self-formation to normative structures. The remaining part of the course examines forms of embodied subjectivity, in which bodily existence becomes the ground of subject-formation. The course comprises readings that are theoretical in nature. Students are encouraged to take up research projects on empirical issues, drawing on the course readings.</p>
Evaluation Scheme	<p>Midterm evaluation (40%) will include short response papers on themes related to the project that the student chooses to work on. Endterm evaluation (60%) will be based on the final research project.</p>

Course Title	<b>Culture of Democracy</b>
Course Code	LCS 126
Semester	I & III
No. of Credits	5
Name of Faculty Member(s)	Uma Bhrugubanda
Course Description: words (100 words)	The objective of this course is to think through the relationship between culture and democracy. We will engage with the following questions: What kind of a culture is conducive to the flourishing of democracy? What forms of culture does democracy itself engender? What has been the history and culture of democracy in India? The course will address these questions through a reading of a variety of texts written by political and cultural theorists like Partha Chatterjee, Wendy Brown, Chantal Mouffe, SudiptaKaviraj, Gopal Guru, Jacques Ranciere and others.
Evaluation Scheme	Internal---60% (1. Participation in classroom discussions: 10%; 2. Two short written responses (15% x 2):30% and 3. Final Class Presentation: 20%)  External---40% Final Term Paper