

YEAR 1 SEMESTER 2

## Paper III

# Film Studies

### **OBJECTIVES**

- To provide students with deep appreciation of cinema both domestic and foreign.
- To create capable students that can deconstruct a movie on the basis of foundational understanding they received via the syllabi.
- To help them understand the socio-political context of a film and the affect it may have on its viewers and understanding cinema as an instrument in social and political change.
- To teach students how to write film reviews which are insightful.
- Students will be made more aware of all the technicalities of filmmaking.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- Students will learn to appreciate cinema and its significance in history. They will be given an introduction of cinema's history in India and outside the country.
- Moving from its historical roots students will be consuming films as texts in order to make an organic distinction of well made movies versus not so well made movies.
- Students will watch, discuss and write about movies both contemporary and experimental in order to expand their horizon of commercial movies and parallel movies.
- Reading of academic papers based on various films and its movements keeping in mind the production, consumption and comprehension of its socio-political influence.

## UNIT 1

### History of Cinema

- The Motion Camera and the First Films
- The Silent Era
- A Brief Sketch of Indian Cinema

## UNIT 2

### Film Movements and Film Makers

- Realism, Formalism, Expressionism, Neorealism, French New Wave
- World Cinema: D.W. Griffith, Charles Chaplin, Orson Welles, Sergei Eisenstein, Alfred Hitchcock, Akira Kurosawa, Ingmar Bergman and Majid Majidi, Vittorio De Sicca and Jean-Luc Godard.
- Indian Cinema: Guru Dutt, Satyajit Ray, Ritwik Ghatak, Adoor Gopalakrishnan, Girish Kasarvalli.

## UNIT 3

### Film Appreciation

- Technical elements of film: Visual Grammar, Mise-en-scene, Deep Focus, Movements, Film Review

## UNIT 4

### Film and Social Change

- Documentary Films and Filmmakers: Robert J. Flaherty, Michael Moore, Anand Patwardhan and Deepa Dhanraj

## UNIT 5

### Reading Cinema

- *The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction* by Walter Benjamin
- *Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema* by Laura Mulvey

### References

- *Designs on Film: A Century of Hollywood Art Direction* – Cathy Witlock, Harper Collins, 2010
- *Guru Dutt: A Tragedy in Three Acts* – Arun Khopkar, Penguin Books, 2012
- *Beginning Film Studies* – Andrew Dix, second edition, Manchester University Press, 2016
- *How to Read A Film* – James Monaco, fourth edition, Oxford University Press, 2009
- *Looking at Movies* – Richard Barsam, David Monahan, sixth edition, W. W. Norton & Company, 2018
- *Our Films, Their Films* – Satyajit Ray, Orient Blackswan, 2010
- *Introduction to Documentary* – Bill Nichols, third edition, Indiana University Press, 2017
- *Towards a People's Cinema: Independent Documentary and its Audience in India* – Edited by Kasturi Basu, Dwaipayana Banerjee, Three Essays Collective, 2018
- *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* – Joseph Campbell, third edition, Perseus Books Group, 2012