

YEAR 3 SEMESTER 5

Paper IX

# Writing for Film and Filmmaking

## **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 equip themselves organise, plan and shoot an original story.
- Students will be made more aware of all the technicalities of filmmaking.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- Students will learn how to format their screenplays and learn how to work in groups to achieve a collective idea.
- Students will be taken through the process of pre-production, production and post production.
- Understanding the significance of shooting a fiction and non-fiction short film.
- Give students hands on approach to filmmaking in terms of sets, floor planning and blocking.

## UNIT 1

### **Introduction to filmmaking**

- Pre-production, production and post-production
- Documentary filmmaking; modes, identifying the issue, research, narration and narrative and styles

## UNIT 2

### **Screenplay writing**

Theme, subject, idea, synopsis, story, screenplay

- Plot, format, narrative
- Character building and types, story-building, dialogue writing
- Treatments, Narrative structures
- Genres

## UNIT 3

### **Producing**

- Research
- Project Proposals/Production
- Location scouting
- Audition/casting
- Equipment/Inventory
- Budgeting
- Scheduling, call sheet

## UNIT 4

### **Direction**

- Shot size – meaning and motivation
- Planning a shot, scene and sequence and blocking

*Unit 4 contd.*

- Camera movements and Camera angles – methods and meaning
- Master shots, A roll, B roll, inserts, cut-ins and cutaways, inserts, reactions
- Parallel action
- Shoot script
- Storyboard and floor plan
- Working with actors, cinematographs, editors

## UNIT 5

### **Cinematography**

- Equipment
- Format, standards, aspect ratios
- Understanding lenses, picture composition and framing
- Thumb rules

## UNIT 6

### **Lighting**

- Different types of temperatures
- Equipment used to light different spaces
- Reading light
- Kinds of lighting

## UNIT 7

### **Sets, Make up and Costume**

- Floor planning
- Make up – purpose and context
- Costume – understanding periods and purpose

## UNIT 8

### **Soundscape, Dialogues, Foley, Ambience, Music and Effects**

- Audio Equipment
- Audio field production

## UNIT 9

### **Editing and Post-production**

- Why cut, when to cut, when to reassemble
- Continuity of action
- Manipulating time and space
- Montage
- Video: post-production
- Audio: post-production

## **Practicals**

Students will be divided in groups where they ideate on a theme or subject and script an original story and screenplay with synopsis, treatment and storyboard which will later turn into a short film that they will defend in front of an external examiner.

## **References**

- Whitlock, Cathy: *Designs on Film*
- Khopkar, Arun: *Guru Dutt*
- Dix, Andrew: *Beginning Film Studies*
- Muller, Jurgen: *Movies of the 20s*
- Muller, Jurgen: *Movies of the 30s*
- James Monaco: *How to Read a Film*
- Satyajit Ray: *Our Films, Their Films*
- Bill Nichols: *Introduction to Documentary*
- Irwing K, David: *Producing and Directing a Short Film and Video*
- Cleave, Bastian: *Film Production Management*