FIRST SEMESTER 2022-2023
Course Handout Part II

Date: 29-07-2022

In addition to Part-I (General Handout for all courses appended to the timetable) this portion gives further specific details regarding the course.

Course No.	:	**GS F250**
Course Title	:	**Comics and Visual Culture**
Instructor-in-Charge	:	**Anhiti Patnaik**

Course Description:

A historical and cultural examination of popular visual culture; case studies from comic books, manga, graphic novels, memes, and caricatures; transnational approach spanning India, Japan, and America; visual methodologies; critical theory on culture industry, political satire, patriarchy, and public morality; intersections of class, caste, gender, and racial violence in visual media.

Course Objectives:
1. Interpret comic books and graphic novels using visual methodologies.
2. Distinguish between genres and types of graphic storytelling.
3. Learn how popular culture and public morality are produced by popular media.
4. Evaluate critical theories of ideology, class, caste, race, and gender politics.

Learning Outcomes:
On the successful completion of the course and its requirements, students will be well-versed in visual methodologies, Critical Theory, and contemporary debates on mass culture and ideology with respect to class, caste, race, and gender politics.

Textbook:
(TB) Smith, Matthew J., Paul Levitz, and Randy Duncan. *The Power of Comics: History, Form, and Culture*. 2nd ed. London and New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2015.

Reference Books:
(RB 1) Rose, Gillian. *Visual Methodologies: An Introduction to Researching with Visual Materials* (4th. Ed.). New Delhi and London: Sage Publications, 2016
(RB 2) McCloud, Scott. *Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art*. Harper Collins, 1994.

Online copies of the textbook and reference books will be provided and purchasing physical copy is not mandatory for this course

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Reading Material:
Tezuka, Osamu. *Buddha: Vol II. The Four Encounters*
Ito, Junji. *Tomie: Basement*
Vyam, Durgabai and Subash. *Bhimayana*
Patil, Amruta. *Kari*
Hergé. *The Adventures of Tintin: Reporter for "Le Petit Vingtiéme in the Congo"*
Moore, Alan. *Batman: The Killing Joke*
Watterson, Bill. *Calvin and Hobbes: Scientific Progress goes 'Boink'*
Vyam, Durgabai and Subash. *Bhimayana*
Amar Chitra Katha comic on B.R. Ambedkar

Online copies of the reading material will be provided as per lecture requirement. They are merely to provide examples and illustrations and will not be evaluated.

Course Outline:

The course will be taught in four modules based on the learning objectives:

MODULE 1: Methods:
1. Spatial versus semantic language of comics
2. Compositional Interpretation
3. Semiological Method

MODULE 2: Genres:
1. Superheroes
2. Satire
3. Horror and Fantasy
4. Cartoons
5. Graphic Novel

MODULE 3: Ideology:
1. Mass culture and mythology
2. Mass culture and morality
3. Dominant and Emergent culture
4. Gender and Queer politics

Course Plan:

Lecture	Learning Objectives	Topics	Chapter Section
1-6	Defining Visual Culture and types of graphic storytelling	Introduction to key concepts and thinkers, problems, methodology	RB 1
7-12	Difference of Genres	Comic book, Comics, Manga, Graphic novel, Cartoon, Meme	RB 2
13-21	History of Popular Visual Culture – Part 1	Europe and America: Superhero Cartoons	TB Pg. 3- 81
22-30	History of Popular Visual Culture – Part 2	India and Japan: Mythology Horror and Fantasy	TB Pg. 355-383
31-36	Visual Methodologies – Part 1	Compositional Interpretation	TB Pg. 137-162 RB 1 Unit 4
37-40	Visual Methodologies – Part 2	Semiology and Semantics	TB Pg. 327-354 RB 1 Unit 6
41-42	Rise of the Graphic Novel Culture Industry today	Political satire, Patriarchy, and Public Morality, Class, Caste, Gender, and Race issues	Lecture Notes

Evaluation Scheme:

Component	Duration	Weightage (%)	Date & Time	Nature of Component
Test	30 mins	10	TBA	OB
Mid Sem Exam	90 mins	30	TBA	CB
Assignment	50 mins	20	TBA	OB
Class Participation		PCT + 5	Till 15.12.2022	
Comprehensive Exam	120 mins	40	TBA	CB

Consultation Hour: A google meet link with consultation hours will be shared on CMS.

Notices: Notices, if any, concerning the course will be displayed on CMS.

Make-up Policy: Students must request alternative dates/modes of evaluation at least a day before the deadline. Last-minute make-up or late submissions will not be considered.

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Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy: Academic honesty and integrity are to be maintained by all the students throughout the semester and no type of academic dishonesty or plagiarism is acceptable under any circumstance.

Anhiti Patnaik
INSTRUCTOR-IN-CHARGE

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