CBCS Course offered by the English Department

Readings in Popular Culture (30 hours, 2 credits)

Course Description

The course will offer an introduction to Cultural Studies through an exploration of the ideas of Raymond Williams and Stuart Hall in relation to experiences such as popular cinema, popular music and online experience. Students from IV Semester BA, BSc and BCom may opt for this course. Intake is limited to 60.

The course is organized into four modules. The **Introductory** module will look at notions of culture, and allow the student to understand the different ways in which popular culture is theorised.

The **Popular Cinema** module will look at narratives of stardom as they emerge in specific cinematic traditions such as Bollywood and regional cinema. Experiences such as theatre-going in Bangalore will receive critical attention.

The **Popular Music** module will require the student to look at specific phenomena such as the worlding of Indian music with specific reference to A.R. Rahman. Other case studies such as the parodic music of Weird Al Yankovic, immigrant music by Asian Dub Foundation , and Bob Dylan's transition from folk music to a larger audience will also be taken up.

Twitter and Reddit will be the objects of scrutiny in the **Online Experience** module. The experiences of sociality that each space offers will receive critical attention.

Assessment

Students may pick one area of interest to write a 1500-word essay for Internal Assessment. The Mid-Semester Test and the End-Semester Examination will test the student on his/her understanding of the concepts discussed, and their ability to parlay experience into discussion and critical commentary.