

	MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY Kottayam, Kerala Undergraduate Programmes (HONOURS) 2025 Admission Onwards
---	---

SYLLABUS					
SIGNATURE COURSE					
Name of the College	Rajagiri College of Management & Applied Sciences, Kakkanadu				
Faculty/ Discipline	Journalism and Mass Communication				
Programme	BA (Hons) Journalism and Mass Communication				
Course Coordinator	MARTINA A A				
Contributors	Devika R				
Course Name	Decoding Representations of Abuse in Cinema				
Type of Course	VAC				
Specialization title	This Signature Course does not have a specialization.				
Course Code	MG3VACJMCA00				
Course Level	200				
Course Summary	This course critically examines how abuse — physical, emotional, sexual, and systemic — is portrayed in cinema across cultures and genres. Students explore the language of film to understand how narratives either challenge or reinforce harmful social norms. Through close textual analysis, screening discussions, and reflective writing, learners develop media literacy skills essential for responsible media consumption and production.				
Semester	3	Credits		3	
Course Details					
	Learning Approach	Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/Lab-P	Total Hours
	Credits	1	1	1	60
Pre-requisites, if any	Basic English language proficiency and interest in Films and media				

Course Outcomes (CO)

Number of COs		4	
CO No.	Expected Course Outcome	Learning Domains *	PO No
1	Identify and analyse different forms of abuse (physical, emotional, sexual, systemic) as depicted in films from various cultural contexts	U, An	PO4, PO5, PO8
2	Critically evaluate how cinematic language, narrative structure, and genre conventions shape audience perception of abuse and victimhood	An, E	PO4, PO5, PO6
3	Examine the ethical responsibilities of filmmakers and media practitioners in representing sensitive issues of abuse and trauma	U, A	PO7, PO8
4	Demonstrate enhanced media literacy by producing a reflective analysis connecting cinematic representations of abuse to real-world social impact	E, C	PO4, PO5

*Remember (K), Understand (U), Apply (A), Analyse (An), Evaluate (E), Create (C), Skill (S), Interest (I) and Appreciation (Ap)

CO-PO Articulation Matrix

CO/PO	PO 1	PO 2	PO 3	PO 4	PO 5	PO 6	PO 7	PO 8	PO 9	PO 10
CO 1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-
CO 2	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-
CO 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-
CO 4	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-

'0' is No Correlation, '1' is Slight Correlation (Low level), '2' is Moderate Correlation (Medium level) and '3' is Substantial Correlation (High level).

Course Content

Content for Classroom transaction (Units)

Module	Units	Course Description	Hrs	CO No.
1		Understanding Abuse: Definitions, Forms and Social Context		
	1.1	Defining abuse: physical, emotional, sexual, and systemic forms	4	["1"]
	1.2	Social and cultural contexts that enable or normalise abuse	4	["1"]
	1.3	Introduction to film analysis: mise-en-scène, narrative, and point of view	4	["1"]
	1.4	Screening and discussion: selected short films depicting abuse	6	["1"]
2		Screening and discussion: selected short films depicting abuse		
	2.1	How camera angles, lighting, and editing construct power dynamics	3	["2"]
	2.2	Genre conventions: melodrama, thriller, and social realism in abuse narratives	4	["2"]
	2.3	Victim representation: agency, silence, and stereotyping in film	4	["2"]
	2.4	Case study: Comparative analysis of Indian and global cinema	4	["2"]
	2.5	Group discussion: problematic vs. empowering portrayals	6	["2"]
3		Ethics, Responsibility, and the Filmmaker's Gaze		
	3.1	Ethical challenges in depicting trauma and abuse on screen	4	["3"]
	3.2	Consent, sensitivity, and the responsibility of media practitioners	4	["3"]
	3.3	The male gaze and feminist film theory in relation to abuse narratives	4	["3"]
	3.4	Guest session / documentary screening: voices of survivors in media	4	["4"]
	3.5	Discussion: censorship, trigger warnings, and responsible storytelling	5	["4"]

Teaching and Learning Approach	Classroom Procedure (Mode of transaction) Classroom Procedure (Mode of transaction): Lecture, Film Screening and Analysis, Group Discussion, Case Studies, Guest Lecture/Documentary Screening, Reflective Journaling, and Critical Writing.
---------------------------------------	--

Assessment Types	MODE OF ASSESSMENT Mode of Assessment: Both
	A. Continuous Comprehensive Assessment (CCA) • Theory - 15 Marks TEST • Practical - 15 Marks Activity (Film Review / Reflective Journal Entry)
	B. End Semester Evaluation (ESE) • Theory - 35 Marks Assessment Methods - THEORY Duration of Examination - 1.25 Hrs Pattern of examination for Theory - Non-MCQ Different parts of written examination - Part - A , B , C Answer Type: ◦ PART - A ◦ Short answer - (5 out of 6) - $5 \times 2 = 10$ ◦ PART - B ◦ Short Essays - (2 out of 4) - $2 \times 5 = 10$ ◦ PART - C ◦ Essays - (1 out of 2) - $1 \times 15 = 15$ • Practical - 35 Marks Assessment Methods - PRACTICAL Duration of Examination - 1.00 Hrs

References

- Kaplan, E. Ann. Trauma Culture: The Politics of Terror and Loss in Media and Literature. Rutgers University Press.
- Mulvey, Laura. Visual and Other Pleasures. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Projansky, Sarah. Watching Rape: Film and Television in Postfeminist Culture. New York University Press.

Suggested Readings

- Herman, Judith. Trauma and Recovery. Basic Books.
- Tasker, Yvonne & Negra, Diane (Eds.). Interrogating Postfeminism: Gender and the Politics of Popular Culture. Duke University Press.
- NCERT. Ethics and Human Values.

Affidavit

- We, Rajagiri College of Management & Applied Sciences, Kakkanadu and MARTINA A A, retain the copyright of this syllabus and expressly prohibit its distribution in complete form to any institution outside our own.
- We, Rajagiri College of Management & Applied Sciences, Kakkanadu, agree to appoint a new course coordinator for the proposed Decoding Representations of Abuse in Cinema in the event of the unavailability of the currently nominated coordinator. This appointment will ensure the continued coordination of course delivery, assessments, and all related academic responsibilities necessary for the successful implementation of the signature course, for as long as the college offers this programme.
- We, Rajagiri College of Management & Applied Sciences, Kakkanadu and MARTINA A A, declare that no part of this signature course submitted here for approval has been taken from the course content developed by, or from any of the



MGU-UGP (HONOURS)

Syllabus