Name of the Course: Science Fiction (CBCS Elective)
Course Code: HS 461
Instructor: Dr. Gigy J Alex

Course Description
Science Fiction is a literary genre that deals with the impact of actual or imagined science on society or individuals. The term science fiction was popularized in the 1920s by an American publisher Hugo Gernsback. The Second World War, Industrial revolution and various other socio-political events led writers and intellectuals to extrapolate the impact of technology and its future advancements upon the humankind. Major science fiction themes include space travel, robots, alien beings, time travel, cyberspace etc. In this course texts from genres consisting of novels, short stories, movies, plays, and poems are included.

Main objectives of the course
1. To identify the relationship between science and society
2. To chisel out the individual’s role in technology and development
3. Our immediate world and an alien space
4. Fusing fact and fiction for a better appraisal of the universe

Outcome
This course is mainly concentrated around a reading community who will approach the works from a critical perspective. Prior reading is essential for discussing novels, essays and short stories. It will improve the critical appreciation of texts of different genres. It will provide an open forum to discuss things, and the creative writing skills will also improve. While discussing the topics we have to consider
(1) the general nature of science fiction, early origins of SF
(2) Subgenres and general themes of this genre
(3) Discussions of Utopias, Dystopias, Soft SF, Hard SF, Time Travel, Women in SF, Cybernetics and SF, Issues of gender, ecology, language, power, genetic engineering, imaginative literature, and major techniques dealt with SF.

Course Materials

Novels

*Brave New World* - Aldous Huxley
*Fahrenheit 451* - Ray Bradbury
*The Handmaid’s Tale* - Margaret Atwood or *The Left Hand of Darkness* – Ursula Le Guin
*The Calcutta Chromosome* - Amitav Ghosh
*Never Let Me Go* - Kazuo Ishiguro or *Dhalgren* - Samuel Delany

Short story

“The Distance of the Moon” - Italo Calvino
“All You Zombies”-Robert Heinlein
“I, Robot”-Issac Asimov
“Blood Child”-Octavia Butler
“The Seventh Voyage”- Stanislaw Lem
“Burning Chrome”-William Gibson

Cinema

La Jetée- Chris Marker
2001: A Space Odyssey- Stanley Kubrick
Solaris- Andrei Tarkovsky
Matrix- Lana Wachowski & Lily Wachowski
Gattaca- Andrew Niccol
Interstellar- Christopher Nolan
Blindness- Fernando Meirelles

Essays

“Simulacra and Simulation”- Jean Baudrillard
“Science Fiction”- Raymond Williams
“A Cyborg Manifesto”- Donna Haraway

Play

Harvest- Manjula Padmanabhan

Poems

“A Martian Sends a Post card Home”- Craig Raine
“Einstein on World Government” – A Van Jordan
“A Portrait of the Artist”- Vandana Singh

References


Assessment

30 marks for Quizzes+ 50 marks for end sem exam+ 20 marks for Internal Assessment

Weightage (Teacher Assessment)

Paper Presentation - 10 marks (novelty of the topic, presentation, and independent thinking)
Written Assignment - 10 marks (creative writing, presentation, and originality of thought)
Name of the Course : Visual Communication ( CBCS Elective)
Course Code : HS 462
Instructor : Dr Babitha Justin

Objectives: To introduce the student to:

1. Visual communication in its many forms: from still images to moving images
2. The history of visual culture, right from the times of prehistoric communication to the digital present
3. The history of visual communication and its basic concepts
4. Historical, physiological, psychological, perceptual and cognitive aspects of visual communication
5. The structural variables of visual communication, referred to as the “visual rhetoric”
6. Critically analysis of methods and ethical implications of electronic and print media images

Outcome: On completion of the course, the students should be able to:

1. To look at the visual arts as rich cultural texts and visual media as investigative tools
2. To learn to transform visual experiences and observances into critical ponderings on visual representation
3. Build a critical and articulate understanding of the relationship between images and their representation
4. To develop insight into theoretical questions on contemporary producers and consumers of visual culture and to express the student’s own ideas with creativity, clarity and critical thinking

Content:
• What is Visual Communication? And why this question matters.
• Prologue to Graphic Design: Invention of Writing; Petroglyphs to Alphabets
• Reform and Revolution: Arts and Crafts; Indian Art, Nationalism in art, A glimpse of Contemporary art
• Consumption and Mass Culture: Photography, Cinema and advertisement
• The Digital world: The Virtual real in contemporary culture
• Theories of Visuality and their impact on visual communication

Module One: History of Visuality

Visuality is an important mode of understanding our culture and life at close quarters. In this module, we will take a look at the emergence of visual culture in relationship to the development of visual technologies, the history of pictorial art, and the emerging recognition of the priority of the visual as the king of the senses.

Readings
Module Two: The Politics of Visuality

This module examines the production, reception, and interpretation of the aspects of culture that communicate through visual imagery. These include not only art, but photography, and commercial imagery (including advertisements, popular film, and television).

Readings

Module Three: From Stasis to Movement

This module examines the cultural, visual, spatial, and philosophical questions that art (paintings and cinema) engages with the society. The reference texts give the students a foundation on the theoretical framework on which they can look at the contemporary visual culture from a new perspective.

Readings


Module Four: From Real to the Virtual

Looks at the way in which the internet and cyber spaces are being used by disadvantaged and marginal groups for social and political change as well as misused as a system of surveillance. Here, how the virtual usurps the spaces of imagination in our day to day lives shall also be examined.

Readings


Core Text

Evaluation

50 marks for End Sem Examination
30 for Q1 and Q2
10 for the Seminar Presentation
10 for Assignment and Final Report