



Course Description for Film Studies Minor-Paper 2

Name of the institute: Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

Course name: Film Studies Minor Paper 2-Realism and Cinema

(UG/ PG): UG, semester 4

No. Of credits: 4 (60 hours)

Level: 2

Course Description:

The students spend the entire semester understanding the question of realism. This is at the base of all film movements, the works of individual filmmakers, the studio system, independent film movements, and so on. Students learn that this seems to be a particularly important question in India. Indian parallel cinema was hailed for the 'social realism' while popular cinema was critiqued for the lack of 'reality.' Students in this course are introduced to the 'Reality Factor' in cinema. They look back at the previous semester and understand how all the national cinemas across the world create a 'spectrum of realism' as it were. They are also introduced to some debates around Realism.

They learn in detail film movements like the Italian Neorealism, French New Wave, Russian social realism, Indian parallel cinema, films of Satyajit Ray and Abbas Kiarostami. The question of realism involves the other end of the spectrum; they are introduced to Magic Realism in literature, and to the South American films influenced by it. The most important deviation from reality is the body of films from the studio era, called the melodramatic films. Melodrama is introduced in this course.

