

III. SKILL ENHANCEMENT COURSE- SEC 2: UNDERSTANDING POPULAR CULTURE

Marks: 75 (ESE: 3Hrs) = 75

Pass Marks: Th (ESE) = 30

(Credits: Theory-03) **Theory: 45 Lectures**

Course Objectives:

The paper examines some popular cultures expressed in different mediums like visual, oral and cultural. In the process of their evolution, these cultures eclectically draw from traditions, articulate anxieties, and even give rise to new traditions. The paper endeavours to equip students with understanding such phenomena historically, with special reference to India. It is imperative that the students use electronic devices to view, record, and document the subject matter.

Course Objectives:

I Introduction: Defining popular culture and understanding it historically

II Visual expressions: Folk art, calendar art, photography

III. Performance:

Theatre; music; folk tales/ songs/ *swang* and *Nautanki*: Identifying themes, functionality, anxieties

IV. The audio-visual: cinema and television:

Indian cinema: Mapping the influence of the national struggle for independence (1930s and 40s);
Cinema and nationalism (1950s), disillusionment and the anti-establishment mood (1970s and 80s);
Documentary films: popular culture in television

V. Fairs, Festivals and Rituals:

Disentangling mythological stories, patronage, regional variations

VI. Popular culture in a globalized world:

The impact of the Internet and audio-visual media in India

Essential Readings:

1. Dissanayake, W. and K. M. Gokul Singh, *Indian Popular Cinema*, Trentham Book, London, 2004
2. John Storey, *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture*, London, 2001
3. Oberoi, Patricia, *Freedom and Destiny: Gender, Family and Popular Culture in India*, Delhi, 2009
4. Christopher Princy, *Camera Indica: The Social Life of Indian Photographs*, Chicago, 1998

Suggested Readings:

1. Pankaj Rag, *Dhuno ke Yatri*, Rajkamal, New Delhi, 2006 (Hindi)
2. Ramanujan, A.K. *Folktales from India, A Selection of Oral Tales from Twenty-two Languages* (Only Introduction).
3. Ramaswamy, V. 'Women and the 'Domestic' in Tamil Folk Songs' in *Kumkum Sangari and Uma Chakravarti, eds., From Myths to Markets: Essays on Gender*, Shimla, 1999
4. Singh, Lata (ed.), *Theatre in Colonial India: Playhouse of Power*, New Delhi, 2009