Course Title : Seminar in Current Cultural Issues

Course Code : CUS3326

Recommended Study Year : 3-4

No. of Credits/Term : 3

Mode of Tuition : Seminar mode

Class Contact Hours : 3 hours per week

Category in Major Prog. : Elective

Prerequisite(s) : Nil

Co-requisite(s) : Nil

Exclusion(s) : Nil

Brief Course Description : This course is designed to address critical issues emerging from the current developments in cultural politics and cultural studies of interest to the local, regional and international contexts. Students will be introduced to some of the most controversial debates in the field. Specific topics may vary from year to year, but will typically involve issues as conceived and developed in the processes of local/global cultural production, mediation and circulation.

Aims : 1. To introduce to students some of the most current and controversial debates in cultural studies today.

2. To help students acquire critical frameworks in articulating cultural issues from interdisciplinary and intercultural perspectives.

3. To equip students with analytical abilities to respond to current cultural issues in their everyday experiences.

Learning Outcomes : Students will be able to:

1. describe and respond to some of the most current and controversial debates in the field today.

2. analyze cultural issues from interdisciplinary and intercultural perspectives.

3. appropriately apply established critical frameworks and/or create new frameworks in discussing current cultural issues in their everyday experiences.

Indicative Content : Issues of concern to contemporary debates in Cultural Studies. Issues studied include, but will not be limited to, the following:

1. gender and sexuality;

2. race, nationalism and ethnicity;

3. community and civil development;

4. creativity and imagination;

5. peace and violence;

6. resistance and hegemony;

7. posthumanism and cyber culture;
8. postmodernity.

Teaching Method:

1. Seminar presentations supplemented with multi-media materials to identify some of the concerns related to the specific set of issues selected, and provide established frameworks for discussion. A number of key topics will be identified for in-depth analysis by the class.

2. Seminar discussions to induce more diverse perspectives, train and enhance student skills to engage in critical dialogue on controversial issues.

3. Students will be guided to work on individual or group projects involving the use of materials drawn from a variety of disciplines, cultures and media. Students are required to present their project findings in class for group discussion and critique. Students are also required to submit essays based on project findings and class discussions.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes:

1. Seminar discussions require students to identify and describe some of the current debates and issues. Guided projects require students to do research on various perspectives concerning current debates and examine closely relevant issues with specific case studies.

2. Seminar presentations require students to demonstrate their skills in responding to, analyzing, and presenting cultural issues from interdisciplinary and intercultural perspectives.

3. Seminar presentations, guided projects and essays require students to appropriately apply established critical frameworks and/or create new frameworks in discussing current cultural issues in their everyday experiences.

Assessment:

Students are assessed on the basis of 100% Continuous Assessment, with the following grade distribution:

- Participation in class discussion including attendance [30%]
- Seminar presentations [30%]
- Guided projects and essays [40%]

Readings:

Will vary according to each specific topic. Some of the commonly used readings are:

Required/Essential Readings:


Recommended/Supplementary Readings:


