UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT & TECHNOLOGY

**DEPARTMENT OF GENDER STUDIES**

**GS-650 WOMEN AND CULTURAL REPRESENTATION: COMPARATIVE GENDER STUDIES IN SOUTH ASIA**

**Capsule Statement:**

This course engages in a humanities-oriented analysis of cultural representations of women and men within the social and historical contexts of race, class, gender and sexuality. The class engages with a range of traditions and modes of representation including literature, mass media and popular culture. The course has a particular focus upon the experiences and representations of women in South Asia. The course will explore a range of cultural contexts to explore how gendered representations produce social, political, and personal implications.

**Objectives:**

After the completion of this course, students will be able to

* Identify feminist and cultural studies theories that analyze the representations of gender, ‘race’, class, sexuality and ability in cultural context
* Examine how gender is represented in cultural texts and artifacts
* Distinguish the social, economic and political contexts from which mass media texts emerge and how they portray, limit and expand different women’s lives
* Critically think about how spectators/consumers of popular culture have varied ‘readings’ of popular culture
* Identify the role of individuals and social movements as active agents in disrupting, defining and expanding culture
* Deepen knowledge of feminist cultural activism and of women as producers of culture

**Contents:**

1. **Basic Concepts**
   1. **Culture and Ideology**
   2. **Representation**
2. **Post-Coloniality, and the Politics of Representation**
3. **Globalization and Culture**
4. **Cultural Industry**
   1. Production and Consumption
5. **Popular Culture**
   1. Disrupting Gender Roles in Media: Second and Third Wave Feminisms
   2. Gender, Class and Sexual Identity on Television
   3. 20th Century Celebrity Culture
   4. Problematizing the Disney Princess
   5. Masculinity and Popular Culture
6. **Women engaging in Cultural Production**
7. **Women and Cultural representations** 
   1. Bangladesh
      1. Women’s contribution to culture
      2. Women and preservation of culture
      3. Portrayal of women and popular culture
   2. India
      1. Women’s contribution to culture
      2. Women and preservation of culture
      3. Portrayal of women and popular culture
   3. Pakistan
      1. Women’s contribution to culture
      2. Women and preservation of culture
      3. Portrayal of women and popular culture

**Recommended Readings:**

Adorno, T. & Horkheimer, M. (2007) . The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception. Simon During (ed.), *The Cultural Studies Reader, 3rd Edition.* London: Routledge. Pp. 31-41.

Bourdieu, P. (2006). Distinction & the Aristocracy of Culture. John Storey (ed). *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: A Reader,* *3rd Edition*. Harlow: Pearson Education Limited. pp. 66- 74.

Edwidge Danticat. (2010). *Create Dangerously: The Immigrant Artist at Work* (Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Sansay, L. (2007). *Secret History: or, The Horrors of St. Domingue and Laura*, ed. Michael J. Drexler. Ontario: Broadview Editions:Petersborough.

Stuart Hall, ed. (1997). *Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices*. UK: Sage.

Stuart Hall. (1996). Cultural Studies and its Theoretical Legacies. David Morley and Kuan-Hsing Chen, eds., Stuart Hall: *Critical Dialogues in Cultural Studies.* London: Routledge. . pp. 262-275

Timothy, G. (2000). Beyond Cultural Populism: Notes Toward the Critical Ethnography of Media Audiences. *Journal of Communication Inquiry 24 (3)*. pp. 253- 273

Williams, R. Base and Superstructure in Marxist Cultural Theory. *New Left Review 82: 3-16*.

Williams, R. (1985). Culture. *Keywords: a Vocabulary of Culture and Society*. New York: Oxford University Press. pp. 87-93.