

Literary and Cultural Studies

(12 core + 03 Electives = 15 Courses = 60 Credits)

A major in Literary and Cultural Studies will introduce the students to a rich spectrum of interdisciplinary ideas drawn from a diverse array of disciplines such as literature, linguistics, philosophy, sociology and anthropology. Cultural Studies initially emerged in the 1960s as a specialisation within literary studies, which is essentially the academic area of inquiry concerned with the study of literature or 'literary texts.' The major will therefore also attempt to augment the theoretical understanding of the concept of 'textuality,' to which the students were introduced during their introductory year of the programme. Richard Hogarth, Stuart Hall, Raymond Williams and Roland Barthes can be regarded as some of the earliest proponents of this interdisciplinary framework of ideas. Although the provenance of Cultural Studies can be traced back to the work of the Frankfurt School of Theory, especially in the writings of Theodore Adorno and Max Horkheimer, the systematic institutionalisation of the subject started with the setting up of the Birmingham School of Cultural Studies in 1964.

One of the primary concerns of LCS is to analyse culture as a site of production/contestation of meaning and ideology, which requires a strategic blurring of disciplinary boundaries between Humanities and Social Sciences. Like most interdisciplinary areas of study, LCS does not have a native framework of analysis of its own, nor a clearly defined object of study. It therefore relies heavily on appropriation of theoretical frameworks from other disciplines of Humanities and Social Sciences and takes as its object of study the concept of culture, conceived rather broadly as a 'semiotic system,' which refers to a wide range of symbolic practices employed by human beings for constructing and making sense of the world, as well as for constructing and making sense of the self. Instead of being intimidated by the formidable ambiguities surrounding the term 'culture,' Cultural Studies, turns this ambiguity into an enabling condition that allows it to examine the role of cultural practices in the constitution of individual and collective subjectivities. To paraphrase the famous anthropologist Clifford Geertz, culture does not merely play an additive role in the formation of the human subject but a constitutive one. Therefore, another crucial concern in Cultural Studies is to study the processes underlying the formation of 'self.' The broad rationality of this major is to introduce the students to some of the central theoretical impulses that led to the formation of LCS as an academic area of enquiry and the key concepts related to this radically interdisciplinary field of study. As they proceed further into the program of activities, the emphasis will shift from acquisition of concepts towards learning how to make use of these critical concepts for the purpose of producing meaningful analyses of a wide range of cultural phenomena and various genres of cultural production which include works of art as well as popular entertainment.

The Major consists of 12 core courses that account for 4 credits each as well as 3 electives which would account for 3 credits per course. An indicative layout of the semester wise course plan has been provided below. During the second year of the programme, the students will be required to complete 8 core courses which are all mandatory whereas in the third year, 4 mandatory core courses and 3 electives of their own preference.

The layout of the semester wise course plan is as follows:

Core Courses: Year II – Sem I	Credits
1. Critical Concepts in Cultural Studies 2. Genealogy of Cultural Studies 3. Methods of Cultural and Textual Analysis 4. Culture as a Semiotic System	04 credits x 4 = 16 Credits
Core Courses: Year II – Sem II	
1. Cultural Ethnography 2. Culture and the Subject 3. Representation and Power 4. Literary Criticism and Theory	04 Credits x 4 = 16 Credits----
Core Courses: Year III – Sem I	
1. Oral Traditions 2. Reading Popular Culture 3. New Historicism and the Study of Literature	04 Credits x 3 = 12 Credits
4. Elective basket: i. Arts and Aesthetics ii. Race and Identity	03 Credits x 1 = 3 Credits
Core Courses: Year III – Sem II	
1. Narrative and Experience	04 Credits x 1 = 4 Credits
2. Elective Basket: i. Gender and Sexuality ii. Media and Culture iii. Narrative and History iv. Cultural Practice v. Performance Studies	03 Credits x 3 = 9 Credits
	15 courses = 60 credits

Literary and Cultural Studies Minors

1. Genealogy of Cultural Studies
2. Critical Concepts in Cultural Studies: Representation and Subjectivity
3. Methods of Cultural and Textual Analysis
4. Culture as a Semiotic System
5. Oral Traditions
6. Narrative and Experience