



## Introduction to Cultural Studies

### Course Information

Elective course for Jindal School of Languages and Literature, Spring Semester 2026

Course Code: LLUE01-BLL-ENGL-1004

Course Credits: 4 Credits

Course Duration: 15 weeks

Meeting Hours: TBD

### Instructor Information

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### Course Description

Cultural Studies as a discipline emerged from the Birmingham Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies (BCCCS) in the UK, which, beginning in 1968, was headed by Stuart Hall. Cultural Studies looks at the ways in which culture is constructed and organised and the ways in which it evolves and changes over time. It is an interdisciplinary field of study and borrows from various fields of Humanities and Social Sciences, such as Sociology, Anthropology, History and Political Science. This introductory course will begin with defining "culture" and "Cultural Studies" and will introduce the students to the history of the discipline. It will acquaint the students with the key thinkers and their concepts and theories, connecting the concepts/theories with the Indian context. The course will then focus on close reading and discussion of a variety of essays on themes as varied as nationalism, science, popular culture, gender, caste, and so on. In the process, students will be introduced to, and encouraged to discuss, concepts such as "power", "identity-politics", "representation", "knowledge/information society", "globalization", "postmodernity" etc. Owing to its sensitivity to history and the structuring force of context and locale, Cultural Studies as a field, has developed in a number of different national strands and India has been an important player. The course will attempt to bring to students the distinct concerns of this sub-continental perspective on Cultural Studies.

### Course Objectives

This introductory course for undergraduate students aims to:

1. familiarise students with basic concepts of Cultural Studies: for instance, power, agency, identity, ideology, and representation



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2. introduce students to strategies to connect cultural knowledge to everyday life
3. acquaint students with initiatives and interests in Cultural Studies emerging from both the global and the Indian context
4. assist develop their reading and writing skills in cultural criticism

## Evaluation Breakup

- Response Papers (15x2): 30%
- Group presentations: 20%
- Term Paper: 50%

## Learning/ Reference Material

- “Culture” and “Popular”, from Williams Raymond. *Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society*. New York: Oxford UP, 1976, 1983.
- Excerpt from Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. London: Verso, 2006.
- “Imagining the Nation”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 31 March. 2007, p. 1068.
- Mazumdar, Ranjani. “The Bombay Film Poster”. *Seminar*. [http://www.india-seminar.com/2003/525/525\\_ranjani\\_mazumdar.htm](http://www.india-seminar.com/2003/525/525_ranjani_mazumdar.htm).
- Phadke, Shilpa, Sameera Khan, and Shilpa Ranade. “Public Space” from *Why Loiter? Women and Risk on Mumbai Streets*, New Delhi: Penguin Books, 2011. pp. 65- 72.
- Tharu, Susie J, and K Satyanarayana. Introduction. *No Alphabet in Sight: New Dalit Writing from South India*, by Tharu and Satyanarayana, New Delhi: Penguin Books, 2011.
- Excerpts from Dangle, Arjun (ed). *Poisoned Bread*. Orient Longman, 1992.
- Excerpt from Harari, Yuval N. *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*. New York: Harper Perennial, 2015.
- Venkatachalapathy, A. R. (2002). “In those days there was no coffee”: Coffee-drinking and middle-class culture in colonial Tamilnadu. *The Indian Economic & Social History Review*, 39(2-3), 301-316. <https://doi.org/10.1177/001946460203900209>

[Please note, that the classroom lectures are going to be interactive, with critical debates and creative exercises. This is also a reading intensive course, which needs preparation from the student's side.]

## Academic Integrity

### ***A Note on Classroom Punctuality/Conduct:***



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JSLL conducts all classes on a foundation of professionalism. It is *absolutely* expected that students be present in class by the start time of the class. The instructor will not wait for you and you will not be given extra time if an assignment has begun. Show courtesy to your instructors and co-learners by observing punctuality. Please also note that the seminar room is a place for free expression and critical thinking and this comes with a responsibility on the part of students to respect opinions expressed by others and actively participate in the classroom discussion.

### ***A Note on Plagiarism:***

In line with JGU and UGC policy, JSLL operates a zero-tolerance approach to Plagiarism. The unacknowledged use within your work of material by others is a violation of academic integrity and all reported cases will be investigated before potential disciplinary action. Plagiarism includes:

- direct copying from a book article, web site, another student's assignment, or transcribing from an audio or video source
- paraphrasing another person's work with minor changes, but keeping the meaning, form and/or progression of ideas of the original
- piecing together sections of the work of others into a new whole
- submitting an assignment that has already been submitted for assessment in another subject
- presenting an assignment as independent work when it has been produced in whole or part in collusion with other people, for example, another student or a tutor,
- using ChatGPT and other AI to write assignments without permission and citation.

Modern Indian Poetry in English and Its Renewals

### ***Disability Support and Accommodation Requirements:***

JGU endeavours to make all its courses accessible to students. All students with a known disability needing academic accommodations must register with the Disability Support Committee. Our email address for appointments is ‘Disability Support Committee’ <[dsc@jgu.edu.in](mailto:dsc@jgu.edu.in)>. The Committee provides a range of accommodations to the conditions identified by The *Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016* and the Mental Health Care Act 2017 and beyond. We support students with a wide range of health and learning-related conditions. These conditions include physical and mobility-related difficulties, visual impairment, hearing impairment, medical conditions, specific learning difficulties, e.g. dyslexia, dyscalculia, and mental health conditions such as anxiety and panic attacks. The Disability Support Committee maintains strict confidentiality in its discussions. We respect the privacy of the students. The registrations for the DSC are open throughout the year. However, students with long-standing conditions should register with the Committee at the beginning of the academic year. The DSC will take at least 14 business days to make arrangements with the respective departments.

### ***Attendance Policy:***

Students should do their best to attend all classes. Students are required to maintain a minimum of 75% attendance, as per the JGU Attendance Policy. Absences will hurt your ability to complete assignments. If a student misses a session flagged for an in-class written assignment, unless it is an emergency, they cannot ask for a make-up evaluation, resulting in losing the grade.