



BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

Term End Examination 2023
Programme – B.A.(Eng)-Hons-2021
Course Name – Film Studies
Course Code - BELS404A
(Semester IV)

Full Marks : 60

Time : 2:30 Hours

[The figure in the margin indicates full marks. Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.]

Group-A

(Multiple Choice Type Question)

1 x 15=15

1. Choose the correct alternative from the following :

- (i) Discuss why filmmaker's biography analysis is not a good starting point in investigating films.
- a) Elements of a film can also be used to trace back unconscious impulses, repressions and childhood traumas from the life of the filmmaker.
- b) Film is a communal product in which it is very difficult to dissect individual contribution
- c) Both a and b
- d) None of the above
- (ii) A concept based on the oscillation of shot and reverse shot that is used in narrative films to "stitch" or "sew" the spectator in the filmic narrative. Read and recognize.
- a) Condensation
- b) Displacement
- c) Suture
- d) Auteur
- (iii) According to Laura Mulvey, explain the primary function of the male gaze in Hollywood cinema.
- a) To objectify women
- b) To empower women
- c) To critique patriarchal power structures
- d) To subvert traditional gender roles
- (iv) Which of the following is NOT one of the stages of Sergei Eisenstein's montage process? Choose the correct option.
- a) Pre-production
- b) Intellectual montage
- c) Collision montage
- d) Metric montage
- (v) Recall the name of the Austrian director who made the expressionist film "The Golem".
- a) F.W. Murnau
- b) Carl Theodor Dreyer
- c) Paul Leni
- d) Paul Wegener
- (vi) State the purpose of expressionism in cinema
- a) To present reality as it is
- b) To present reality in a subjective, emotional way
- c) To present reality in a naturalistic way
- d) To present reality in a linear, straightforward way

- (vii) Recognise in which of the following texts the theoretical framework of the male gaze theory was first presented.
- a) The Second Sex
b) Can the Subaltern Speak?
c) Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema
d) Imagining Women
- (viii) Discuss how expressionism differs from realism in films.
- a) Expressionism aims to present reality in a naturalistic way, while realism presents reality in a subjective, emotional way
b) Expressionism relies heavily on non-realistic lighting and set design, while realism presents reality in a straightforward, naturalistic way
c) Expressionism avoids emotional reactions, while realism evokes emotional reactions in the audience
d) Expressionism is a less theatrical style, while realism borrows heavily from theatre
- (ix) In your opinion, is Bazin's ontology of the photographic image still relevant in today's digital age? Explain.
- a) Yes, it is still relevant, because the concept of indexicality is still important in distinguishing photographic images from other forms of visual media.
b) No, it is no longer relevant, because digital images can be easily manipulated and do not have the same relationship to reality as photographic images.
c) It depends on the context and the purpose of the image
d) I am not sure.
- (x) Describe how did expressionism influence cinema beyond the 1920s.
- a) It inspired future filmmakers to experiment with lighting and set design
b) It paved the way for more realistic and naturalistic styles of filmmaking
c) It had no influence on cinema beyond the 1920s
d) It inspired future filmmakers to create more theatrical and stage-like films.
- (xi) I: Michael Powell's Peeping Tom came out in the same year (1960) as Hitchcock's Psycho. II: The reception of the two films was radically different: Powell's had a huge commercial and critical success, whereas Hitchcock's film was a commercial flop and a critical disaster. Choose the correct statements.
- a) I and II
b) Only II
c) Only I
d) None of the above
- (xii) Identify the correct statement: Statement I: Expressionism is associated with the manifestation of the internal psychosis of humanity. Statement II: Noir was influenced by the European Impressionistic fervour and sought to represent the inner psychosis of the protagonist through the setting, lights and stagecraft.
- a) Statement I is true but II is false
b) Statement II is true but I is false
c) Both statements are true
d) Both statements are false
- (xiii) State for which of the following reasons did Joseph Stalin call cinema as the greatest art form
- a) Cinema in the Formalist approach could be used as an effective mode of propaganda
b) Russian cinema of the 20th century can be used as a medium of Bolshevik control
c) Stalin realised the essential reach of cinema as endless in terms of garnering popular support
d) All of the above
- (xiv) Choose which of the following was not a popular theme of French New Wave cinema
- a) Existentialism
b) Irony of life and society
c) Spirit of iconoclasm
d) All of the above
- (xv) Identify by making which of the following documentaries Satyajit Ray pledged support to the Sikkimese Chogyal (King) Palden Thondup Namgyal against both Indian and Chinese aggression on the small mountain kingdom in 1971.
- a) Kanchenjungha
b) Khangchengdzonga
c) Sikkim
d) Chogyal

Group-B
(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

2. What is the relationship between expressionism and social critique? (3)
3. How does Eisenstein's concept of montage differ from conventional narrative filmmaking? (3)
4. Assess how did Eisenstein's political beliefs influence his film theory? (3)
5. Write a note on Satyajit Ray's use of setting and how it contributes to the overall impact of the films. (3)
6. How did Vertov's theories influence the development of documentary filmmaking? Explain. (3)

OR

How did Vertov's theories relate to broader debates about art and politics in the Soviet Union? (3)

Group-C
(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. How does Bazin's ontology of the photographic image differ from other approaches to film theory? (5)
8. How do different cinematic techniques contribute to the construction of a film's narrative? Establish. (5)
9. How does the use of lighting and shadows contribute to the creation of a film's meaning? Express. (5)
10. In what ways does the film industry operate as a commercial enterprise, and how does this impact the creation and distribution of films? Describe. (5)
11. In what ways do different cinematic styles reflect cultural and historical contexts? Justify. (5)
12. How do modernism and realism intersect in the films of Satyajit Ray, and in what ways do these elements contribute to the representation of Indian culture and society? Evaluate. (5)

OR

How does the use of editing contribute to the meaning and impact of a film? Explain. (5)
