

2025
MA Course: CBCS Popular Fiction
Course Instructor: Simi Malhotra
Course Description and Tentative Schedule
4 Credits

The course will examine the following forms of ‘popular’ fiction from the Anglo-American literary context: thrillers, romance, and children’s literature through prescribed texts in the syllabus. In doing so, the course will try to study not only these texts and genres, but also try and unpack the term ‘popular’. Certain course readings, provided by the course instructor, would be circulated in class and the students would be expected to read them and participate in class discussions. The students are encouraged to watch film/television adaptations of these texts. The course instructor will conduct the course as per the schedule given below. **As part of evaluation, the students would be expected to make a class presentation each.**

Date	Topic of Lecture/Discussion
Week 1	Introduction
Week 2	discussion on the term ‘popular’
Week 3	Discussion on readings from Raymond Williams, Morag Schiach
Week 4	Discussion on readings from Raymond Williams, Morag Schiach
Week 5	Presentation and discussion on Christopher Pawling’s “Introduction: Popular Fiction: Ideology or Utopia?”
Week 6	Presentation and discussion on John Cawelti’s “The Study of Literary Formulas”
Week 7	Presentation and discussion on Bridget Fowler’s “Understanding the Romance: The Origins and Structure of a Major Mass Cultural Genre”
Week 8	Presentation and discussion on <i>Bridget Jones’s Diary</i>
Week 9	Presentation and discussion on <i>Bridget Jones’s Diary</i>
Week 10	Presentation and discussion on Felicity A. Hughes’s “Children’s literature: Theory and Practice”
Week 11	Presentation and discussion on <i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone</i>
Week 12	Presentation and discussion on <i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone</i>
Week 13	Presentation and discussion on Jerry Palmer’s “Thrillers”
Week 14	Presentation and discussion on <i>Casino Royale</i>
Week 15	Presentation and discussion on <i>Casino Royale</i>
Week 16	concluding discussion on ‘popular fiction’
Week 17	consultations and discussions, clearing doubts, etc.

Assessment:

40 percent: Class Presentation

60 percent: End Semester Examination

Contact Details

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