

Birla Institute of Technology and Science Pilani

I Sem 2022-2023

HSS F332 Cinematic Art

Comprehensive Examination (Open Book)

Date: 30 December 2022

Duration: 3 Hours

Marks: 80

1. Discuss the origin and characteristics of the French New Wave, followed by a detailed discussion of the film *Breathless* by Godard. The film should be discussed in terms of how it can be seen as a representative of the French New Wave. 16 Marks
2. a) What is “male gaze” according to Laura Mulvey? b) Offer a discussion of how feminist film criticism helps us to make sense of the politics of representation of gender in films. 8+8 Marks
3. Offer a discussion of the film *High Noon* as a western in terms of its genre. 16 Marks
4. With a detailed analysis of specific instances from the films discussed in the class, discuss how Michelangelo Antonioni can be thought of as an auteur 16 Marks
5. Discuss how *Bhuvan Shome* can be seen a representative of Indian New Wave. 16 Marks

Solution

1.
 - A brief discussion about the origins of French New Wave—the availability of American films, film criticism, post-war context, etc.
 - A brief discussion of the characteristics of French New Wave—rejection of studios and preference for location shooting; departure from Classical Hollywood Cinema in terms of the lack of a strong narrative; expression of complex ideas; use of cinematic techniques like shooting with handheld cameras; jump cutting in editing, etc.
 - A detailed discussion of the film *Breathless* to demonstrate how the film has the characteristics of French New Wave
- 2a.

- a brief discussion of the theoretical and historical context of Laura Mulvey's article
- a brief discussion about the arguments about the pleasures that cinema offers
- a discussion of the various looks that Mulvey discusses
- a discussion of male gaze, with a particular focus on the role of the cinematic apparatus

2b.

- discussion of what is feminist film criticism—the issues that feminist film criticism addresses
- discussion of specific instances from films and demonstration of how feminist film criticism would look at those instances

3.

- Discussion of what genre is and the characteristics
- discussion of the usefulness of genre criticism
- discussion of the genre of western and its characteristics
- the demonstration of the characteristics of the genre of western in the film *High Noon* through a discussion of specific instances from the film.

4.

- a detailed discussion of auteur theory—the various critics and filmmakers who have written about it and their arguments
- a discussion of the aspects that one looks for in auteur criticism
- a detailed discussion of the signature elements of Antonioni in the films *La Notte* and *Blow Up*.

5.

- a brief discussion of the historical, political, and industrial context of the origin of Indian New Wave
- a brief discussion of the characteristics of Indian New Wave films
- a demonstration of how *Bhuvan Shome* is characteristic of Indian New Wave through a detailed discussion of the film