**Teaching Plan**

B.A. History (P)

Paper: Understanding Popular Culture (Skill Enhancement Course) SEC

Semester: 3rd Session: July 2020- June 2021

Teacher Name: Dr. Jaspal Singh

SYLLABUS

I. Introduction: defining popular culture; understanding its relationship to high culture (2 Weeks)

II. Visual expressions: folk art, calendar art, photography (2 Weeks)

III. Performance: theatre and music; folktales, songs, swang and nautanki; identifying themes

and characters (2 Weeks)

IV. The audio-visual:cinema, television and internet. Indian cinema: mapping the influence of

the national struggle for independence (1930s and 1940s), idealized nationalism (1950s),

Disillusionment and the anti-establishment mood (1970s and 80s). Expression of popular culture

on television. Impact of the social media (3 Weeks)

V. Fairs, festivals and rituals: disentangling mythological stories; patronage; regional variations (3 Weeks)

A visit to an exhibition/fair/festival is an essential part of this course.

**ESSENTIAL READINGS:**

• Dissanayake, W. and K.M. Gokul Singh. Indian Popular Cinema. London: Trentham

Books, 2004.

• Oberoi, P. Freedom and Destiny: Gender, Family and Popular Culture in India. Delhi,

2009.

• Princy, C. Camera Indica: The Social Life of Indian Photographs. Chicago, 1998.

• Storey, J. Cultural Theory and Popular Culture. London, 2001.

SUGGESTED READINGS:

• Rag, P. Dhuno ke Yatri, New Delhi: Rajkamal, 2006.

• Ramanujan, A.K. Folktales from India: A Selection of Oral Tales from Twenty-two

Languages.USA: Random House, 1997. (Introduction)

• Ramaswamy, V. “Women and the ‘Domestic’ in Tamil Folk Song.” In From Myths to

Markets: Essay on Gender, edited by Kumkum Sangari and Uma Chakravarti. Shimla:

Manohar and Indian Institute of Advanced Study, 1999.

• Singh, L., ed. Theatre in Colonial India: Playhouse of Power. New Delhi: OUP, 2009

Classes 64 approximately.

**Assessment**

Internal Assessment: 25 Marks

Students will be regularly assessed for their grasp on debates and discussions covered in class. \

Two written submissions and at least one presentation will be used for final grading of the students.

Students will be assessed on their ability to engage with a sizeable corpus of readings assigned to the theme for written submissions,

i.e. being able to explain important historical trends and tracing historiography reflected in the assigned readings.