

**Department of Television, Film and Photography  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
University of Dhaka**

**Syllabus for Master of Social Science (MSS) program in  
Television and Film Studies  
(Session- 2019-20)**

**Active from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Batch**

Master of Social Science in Television and Film Studies (MSS) is a two-semester, 32-credit program. Students will complete 8 courses including a thesis or a production. The aim of this program is to provide students a broad-based education in television, film and media studies. It studies television and film as art forms, industries and means of mass communication. To fulfill this objective, it includes advanced theoretical and practical courses on television journalism, television theory and criticism, documentary and filmmaking and film theory and criticism.

**Semester I**  
**Total Credits: 16**  
**Total Marks: 400**

**Available Courses:**

TFS 501: Film Theory and Criticism (4cr)

TFS 502: Advanced Narrative Production (4cr)

TFS 503: Television Criticism (4cr)

TFS 504: Advanced Documentary Production (4cr)

**Semester II**  
**Total Credits: 16**  
**Total Marks: 400**

**Available Courses:**

TFS 505: Investigative Journalism (4cr)

TFS 506: Political Economy of Cultural Production (4cr)

TFS 507: Broadcast and Film Policy (4cr)

TFS 508: Thesis (4cr)

‘Or’

TFS 509: Graduate Production (4cr)

## [COURSE DESCRIPTION]

### Semester I

#### **TFS 501: Film Theory and Criticism**

This course explores the key debates in contemporary film theory since the 1960s to until today. It enables students to read, evaluate and appreciate a film.

#### **Key Readings:**

Braudy, L. and Marshall Cohen (ed.); 2009, Seventh edition. *Film Theory & Criticism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Turner, Graeme (2001). *Film as Social Practice*. Routledge: New York

Bazin, Andre (1963). *What is Cinema?* University of California Press: Berkeley Los Angeles

Kavacs, Andras Balint (2007). *Screening Modernism: European Art Cinema 1950-1980*. The University of Chicago Press: London and Chicago

The instructor will prepare a custom courseware incorporating necessary readings and exercises.

#### **TFS 502: Advanced Narrative Production**

From script to sound design, students spend the semester completing an advanced video production (3 - 10 minutes). Emphasis is placed on storytelling, strong cinematic style, and production values. Students are not required to direct, but must participate in the key crew positions on various projects for full credit.

#### **Key Readings:**

Parker, P. (1999). *The Art and Science of Screenwriting*. Exeter, U.K.: Intellect

Marnar, T. St. J. (1972). *Directing Motion Pictures*. London: The Tantivy Press

The instructor will prepare a custom courseware incorporating necessary readings and exercises.

#### **TFS 503: Television Criticism**

This course explores the key debates in contemporary television theory since the 1930s to until today. It enables students to critically think about television.

### **Key Readings:**

Wasko, J (2005). *A Companion to Television*. USA, Blackwell

Marris, P. & Thornham, S (2000). *Media Studies: A Reader*. New York: New York

The instructor will prepare a custom courseware incorporating necessary readings and exercises.

### **TFS 504: Advanced Documentary Production**

This course involves intensive hands-on work in all aspects of documentary video production, in addition to critical investigations of a variety of contemporary non-fiction forms. Much of the semester revolves around producing a documentary (either individually or in a small group) and completing workshop projects, thus offering experience in project development and conceptualization, camerawork, sound recording, lighting and editing.

### **Key Readings:**

Keith Grant, Barry (1998). *Documenting the Documentary*. Detroit: Wayne State UP

Nichols, Bill (1991). *Representing Reality*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press

The instructor will prepare a custom courseware incorporating necessary readings and exercises.

## **Semester II**

### **TFS 505: Investigative Journalism**

This course is designed to hone the student journalist's ability to investigate, research and report for television deeply on politics, crime, court, environment, health, business etc. and to be able to imagine and develop fresh ideas, test them with the strength of their investigation and reporting and then to present them in a clear, fair fashion television story form adhering to the standards of accuracy and objectivity.

### **Key Readings:**

Houston, Brant & et .al. (2002, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.). *The Investigative Reporter's Handbook: A Guide to Documents, Databases and Techniques*. Bedford/St. Martin's

The instructor will prepare a custom courseware incorporating necessary readings and exercises.

### **TFS 506: Political Economy of Cultural Production**

This course examines why and under what condition cultural texts like TV programs and films are produced, distributed and consumed and what political, economic and cultural factors shape their production, distribution and consumption.

#### **Key Readings:**

Babe, R.E. (2008). *Cultural Studies and Political Economy: Toward a New Integration*. Oxford: Lexington Books

Andersen, N.Å. (2003). *Discourse Analytical Strategies: Foucault, Koselleck, Laclau, Luhmann*. Bristol: Policy Press

The instructor will prepare a custom courseware incorporating necessary readings and exercises.

### **TFS 507: Broadcast and Film Policy**

The objective of this course is to explore the policy issues and principles in the contexts of broadcasting and film. It critically reviews the broadcast and film policies and acts of Bangladesh in comparison to that of India, U.S.A, U.K. and Canada.

#### **Key Readings:**

Lewis, Justin and Toby Miller (2003). *Critical Cultural Policy Studies: A Reader*. London: Blackwell

Napoli, P.M. (2001). *Foundation of Communication Policy*. USA: The Hampton Press

The instructor will prepare a custom courseware incorporating necessary readings and exercises.

### **TFS 508: Thesis**

The students may write a 20-25,000-word thesis based on research in any area of media studies.

Assessment methods: Oral – 25  
Thesis Paper - 75

### **TFS 509: Graduate Production**

The students may produce a 5-7-minute feature film or a 20-25-minute documentary for television.

Assessment methods: Oral (with screening the production) – 25  
Final Production - 75

## GRADING SCALE

Marks obtained (%)	Grades	Grade Point
80-100	A+	4.00
75-79	A	3.75
70-74	A-	3.50
65-69	B+	3.25
60-64	B	3.00
55-59	B-	2.75
50-54	C+	2.50
45-49	C	2.25
40-44	D	2.00
Less than 40	F	0.00
	I	Incomplete
	W	Withdrawn