MANAGEMENT THROUGH FILMS

1. Title of the course: Management through Films

2. Instructors
   i. Anirvan Pant (SM)
   ii. Bhaskar Chakrabarti (PPM)
   iii. Partha Ray (Econ) (Course Coordinator)
   iv. Rajesh Bhattacharya (PPM)
   v. Rahul Roy (MIS)

3. Course Description
   - The course aims at exposing students to a variety of social, economic and ethical themes through a select set of films to sensitize them to think more about these issues. This, we believe, will contribute to the making of a good manager and better citizen.
   - Students will be encouraged to raise critical questions about individual choices, social and economic arrangements, and corporate cultures and values.
   - Students will be asked to relate the cinematic themes to theories and core concepts from different branches of management such as economics, public policy, operations management, strategic management, human resources, organizational behavior and corporate ethics.
   - Each chosen film will be presented by a different faculty member who will focus on one core theme of the film, around which questions will be raised for discussion. Discussion of the cinematic techniques and aesthetic features will only be incidental in the discussion of the core theme chosen to be highlighted by the concerned faculty.
   - Students will be expected to prepare for classes through the assigned readings and discussion questions, to actively engage in the viewing of the movie in the classroom, and to contribute to classroom discussion by sharing their interpretations and analysis.

For reasons of pedagogic convenience the class will have a maximum of 45 students.

4. Learning Objectives
   The objective is to sensitize students to larger social, political and moral issues that affect corporate decisions and hone their critical thinking skills. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

   - Demonstrate evidence of well-argued critical thinking and the ability to imagine alternative state of affairs to improve human well-being.
   - Demonstrate evidence of integrating and applying knowledge from various domains to practical problems and take decisions in complex and unfamiliar situations in the global economy.
   - Demonstrate the ability to make connections between different cultures and contexts.
• Demonstrate traits of being a reflexive and responsible manager.

5. Teaching Methods

The course is anchored around using films as a pedagogical device. It is important to note that the course is not about the de-construction and critique of a film. Rather, the selected films create the context required within which management concepts can be illustrated. The visual medium can enrich the learning experience by shifting from a linear to non-linear modes of knowledge acquisition, enhancing comprehension, and by facilitating the application of various concepts learned in the MBA program to the narrative of the film, thus serving as a beneficial complement to traditional teaching methods. Further, such a medium is particularly beneficial for those students who are visual and auditory learners. While this approach certainly makes learning enjoyable, students will be encouraged to actively engage with the film, take notes, and consider the screening of the films in the classroom as pivotal to the collective learning experience. Students will be provided with guiding questions prior to the screening which will later be picked up for discussion and debate. Viewing the film in the classroom creates a foundation for learning by crafting a common shared experience among students. Further, it is important to note that the film does not replace teaching but reinforces it. The role of the instructor here will be to as a guide who will illustrate ways to identify, analyze, and re-combine information and knowledge represented in the film. This pedagogy will provide space for students to interpret the movie from different positions and create new knowledge.

6. Text and Resources

Instructors will share readings that complement the film assigned to a session to set the context for the discussions. There is no textbook for this course.

7. Copyright Issues

The instructors may need a DVD of the film for showing them to students and will make a few copies of the films available through the library for students.

8. Evaluation

a. Class Participation 30 %
b. Take Home Assignment 30%
c. End-term Examination 40 %

9. Course Format and the Session Plans

The first and last session will be of the ninety-minute format. The remaining sessions in this course would be for three-hours, with the movie screened in-class followed by class discussions. The course will involve five instructors from different groups at IIM Calcutta, each of whom will be responsible for one class spanning over three hours. In addition, we will have a few guest speaker sessions from academics and industry.
### 10. Session-wise Plan

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session No.</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assigned Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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| 6-7         | Seemaboddha / Company Limited (1971); | 1. Seton, Marie, *Portrait of a Director*  
2. Robinson, Andrew, *The Inner Eye* |
| 18-19       | Film Personality 1 | |
| 20          | Summing Up | |