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**PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY**

**Bengaluru**

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| **Ph.D. Course Work End Term Examinations – JAN-FEB 2025** |
| **Date:** 31- 01- 2025 **Time:** 09:30 am – 12:30 pm |

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| **School:** SOE | **Program:** Ph.D. | |
| **Course Code:** ENG878 | **Course Name:** Nihilism and Cinema | |
| **Semester**: | **Max Marks**: 100 | **Weightage**: 50% |

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| **CO - Levels** | **CO1** | **CO2** | **CO3** | **CO4** | **CO5** |
| **Marks** | **10** | **20** | **30** | **10** | **30** |

**Instructions:**

1. *Read all questions carefully and answer accordingly.*
2. *Do not write anything on the question paper other than roll number.*

**Part A**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Answer ALL the Questions. Each question carries 10 marks. 6Q x 10M=60Marks** | | | | |
| **1** | In “*Sunset Boulevard*,” how does the character of Norma Desmond reveal the themes of Hollywood’s decline and existential despair? Identify specific moments in the film that highlight these themes. | **10 Marks** | **L** | **CO1** |
| **2** | In “*Persona*,” what does the relationship between the two main characters reveal about the themes of identity and meaninglessness? Provide examples from their interactions to support your answer. | **10 Marks** | **L** | **CO2** |
| **3** | How does “Taxi Driver” depict Travis Bickle’s existential crises? Discuss specific scenes or elements of the film that illustrate his struggles. | **10 Marks** | **M** | **CO3** |
| **4** | What role does the concept of free will play in “*A Clockwork Orange*”? How does the film’s exploration of this concept contribute to its broader theme of nihilism? Use examples to explain your answer. | **10 Marks** | **L** | **CO2** |
| **5** | In “*Mulholland Drive*,” how do the shifting boundaries between dream and reality reflect the film’s exploration of identity and perception? Discuss scenes that illustrate these blurred lines. | **10 Marks** | **L** | **CO4** |
| **6** | Compare and contrast the characters of Llewelyn Moss and Sheriff Bell in *No Country for Old Men*. How do their contrasting perspectives on morality, justice, and the world around them contribute to the film's exploration of existential dread? | **10 Marks** | **L** | **CO5** |

**Part B**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Answer the Questions. Each question carries 20 marks 2Q x 20 = 40 Marks** | | | | | |
| **7.** |  | How does *Synecdoche, New York* employ the protagonist's ever-expanding theater project as a metaphor for the futility of finding meaning in life? Analyze the interplay between the narrative structure and its commentary on the human condition. | **20 Marks** | **M** | **CO3** |
|  | | | | | |
| **8.** |  | In *Melancholia*, how do the contrasting personalities of Justine and Claire reflect differing responses to existential despair and suffering? Discuss how their individual arcs contribute to the film’s broader exploration of the human condition. | **20 Marks** | **M** | **CO5** |

**\*\*\*\*\* BEST WISHES \*\*\*\*\***