

**Ambedkar University Delhi**

**Course Outline**

**Winter Semester (January to May 2018)**

**Mondays 11 AM to 1 PM and Thursdays 1.45 PM to 3.45 PM**

**Room No. 404**

**School:** School of Letters

**Programme with title:** MA English

**Semester to which offered:** II and IV

**Course Title:** Dalit Literature: A Critical Overview

**Credits:** 4 Credits

**Course Code (new):** SOL2EN324

**Course Code (old):** SLS2EN324

**Type of Course:**

Compulsory

Elective Yes

**For SUS only (Mark an X for as many as appropriate):**

1. Foundation (Compulsory)
2. Foundation (Elective)
3. Discipline (Compulsory)
4. Discipline (Elective)
5. Elective

**Course Coordinator and Team:** Prof. Harish Narang

**Email of course coordinator:** harishc.narang@gmail.com

**Pre-requisites:** None

**Aim:** This course will familiarize students with the political and cultural context in which dalit literature as a distinct domain of knowledge production emerged in modern India. Dalit literature serves as a platform for dalit articulation in addressing political concerns and achieving dalit emancipatory goals. Students would be introduced to different forms of dalit literature such as novels, poems, short stories, essays, plays, and autobiographies to examine how the varied forms of dalit cultural expressions contribute to the project of dalit emancipation. Dalit literature challenges the mainstream literary conventions and lays emphasis on the social relevance and politics of art and literature. Students will also be introduced to some of the important debates in dalit literary criticism.

**Brief description of modules/ Main modules:**

The course will be divided into four modules:

Module 1: Dalit Thought and Politics: From Shudra to Harijan to Dalit

Module 2: Dalit Writing: History, Praxis and Poetics

Module 3: Autobiography and Poetry: *Joothan: A Dalit Life Story* by Om Prakash Valmiki, selected poems by Dalit Writers

Module 4: Fiction: Selected stories/Novels by Dalit writers

In order to understand dalit literature in its own context, a selection of background readings or critical material will also be provided to the students from the following sources:

Anand, Mulk Raj and Eleanor Zelliot, eds. *An Anthology of Dalit Literature*. New Delhi: Gyan, 1992.

Dangle, Arjun, ed. *Poisoned Bread: Translations from Modern Marathi Dalit Literature*. New Delhi: Orient Longman, 1992.

Susie Tharu and K. Satyanarayana (Ed). “No Alphabet in Sight: New Dalit Writing” from South India Dossier 1: Tamil and Malayalam. Delhi: Penguin: 2011.

Gunasekaran, K. A. *The Scar*. Trans. V. Kadambari. Chennai: Orient Blackswan, 2009.

Bama. *Karukku*. Trans. Lakshmi Holmström. Chennai: Macmillan, 2000.

---. *Sangati: Events*. Trans. Lakshmi Holmström. New Delhi: OUP, 2005.

Jadhav, Narendra. *Outcaste: A Memoir*. New Delhi: Viking, 2003.

Kamble, Baby. *The Prisons We Broke*. Trans. Maya Pandit. Chennai: Orient Longman, 2008.

- Limbale, Sharan Kumar. *The Outcaste: Akkarmashi*. Trans. Santosh Bhoomkar. New Delhi: OUP, 2003.
- Mane, Laxman. *Upara: An Outsider*. Trans. A. K. Kamat. New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 1997.
- Gaikwad, Lakshman. *The Branded: Uchalya*. Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 1998.
- Sivakami, P. *The Grip of Change and Author's Notes*. Chennai: Orient Longman, 2006.
- Sudhakar, Yendluri. *Mallemoggala Godugu: Madiga Kathalu*. Hyderabad: Dandora, 1999.
- Valmiki, Omprakash. *Joothan: A Dalit Life Story*. Trans. Arun Prabha Mukherjee. Kolkata: Samya, 2003.
- Kalyanarao, G. *Untouchable Spring*. Trans. Alladi Uma and M. Sridhar. Chennai: Orient Blackswan, 2010.
- M. Vinodini. *Fifth Pulley*. Published in Tutun Mukherjee (Ed.) *Staging Resistance: Plays by Women in Translation*. Delhi: OUP, 2004.

**Tentative Assessment schedule with details of weightage:**

S.No	Assessment	Date/period in which Assessment will take place	Weightage
1	Assignment (based on Module 1)	Second week of February	20%
2	Mid-Term test (based on a text)	Second week of March	20%
3	Group Presentation	End March	20%
4	End Term test	1 <sup>st</sup> week of May	40%
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