

Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Monsoon Semester 2017

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|---|---------------------------|-----|--------|---------------------------|
| School: | Undergraduate Studies | | | |
| Programme with title: | BA (Honours) | | | |
| Semester to which offered: (I/ III/ V) | III Semester | | | |
| Course Title: | Contemporary Indian Drama | | | |
| Credits: | 4 Credits | | | |
| Course Code (new): | SUS1EN244 | | | |
| Type of Course: | Elective | yes | Cohort | BA (H) English |
| | Elective | yes | Cohort | BA (H) other than English |

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

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

Course Coordinator and Team: Vikram Singh Thakur

Email of course coordinator: vikram@aud.ac.in

Pre-requisites: None

Aim: The course is designed to introduce students to various issues involved in contemporary Indian drama. Along with the study of plays the students will also be introduced to various dramatic traditions of India in which these plays are located. This will help students in contextualizing contemporary Indian drama and appreciate it in a nuanced and critical manner. Students will also be encouraged to focus on dramatic traditions other than the ones covered in the course in the form of presentations. By the end of the course the

students will have a fair amount of idea about ten to twelve contemporary Indian dramatists. The course will introduce students to: realism in post-Independence drama, the employment of folk and traditional idioms in urban drama, politics of caste and gender, revisiting history and mythology and political drama.

The following plays will be taken up for detailed study in class:

Vijay Tendulkar, *Shantata! Court Chaluahe* (*Silence! The Court is in Session*)

Habib Tanvir, *Charandas Chor* (*Charandas the Thief*)

Girish Karnad, *Tughlaq*

Kusum Kumar, *Suno Shefali* (*Listen Shefali*)

Utpal Dutt, *Mahavidroha* (*The Great Rebellion 1857*)

Some of the following plays will be taken up for class presentations by students:

Dharamvir Bharati, *Andha Yug* (*The Blind Epoch*)

Mohan Rakesh, *Adhe Adhure* (*Halfway House/The Unfinished*)

Mahesh Elkunchwar, *Atmakatha* (*Autobiography*)

Manjula Padmanabhan, *Harvest*

Chandrashekharkambar, *Jokumaraswami*

Badal Sircar, *Michil* (*Procession*)/*Bhoma*

Mahashweta Devi, *Mother of 1084*

Indira Parthasarthy, *Aurangzeb*

G P Deshpande, *Udhwashta Dharmashala* (*A Man in Dark Times*)

Mahesh Dattani, *Thirty Days in September*

Supplementary Readings:

Awasthi, Suresh. "'Theatre of Roots': Encounter with Tradition". *The Drama Review* 33.4 (1989).

Bharucha, Rustom. "The Revolutionary Theatre of Utpal Dutt". *Rehearsals of*

Revolution: the Political Theatre of Bengal. Calcutta: Seagull, 1983.

Dharwadker, Aparna. "Realism and the Edifice of Home". *Theatres of Independence: Drama, Theory, and Urban Performance in India since 1947*, New Delhi: OUP, 2006.

_____. "Alternative Satges: Antirealism, Gender, and Contemporary "Folk Theatre"" *Theatres of Independence: Drama, Theory, and Urban Performance in India since 1947*, New Delhi: OUP, 2006.

_____. "The Ironic History of the Nation". *Theatres of Independence: Drama, Theory, and Urban Performance in India since 1947*, New Delhi: OUP, 2006.

Gunawardana, A. J. Interview with UtpalDutt. "Theatre as a Weapon: An Interview withUtpalDutt". *The Drama Review*, 15. 2, (Spring, 1971).

Mee, Erin B. "Introduction". *Theatre of Roots: Redirecting the Modern Indian Stage*. Calcutta: Seagull Books, 2008.

| S. No. | Assessment | Period in which the assessment will take place | Weightage |
|--------|---------------------|--|-----------|
| 1. | Class Participation | Throughout the semester | 10% |
| 2. | Mid-semester Exam | End Sep/early Oct | 30% |
| 3. | Home Assignment | Early Sep | 10% |
| 4. | Class Presentation | End Oct/early Nov | 20% |
| 5. | End-sem Exam | As per AUD academic calendar | 30% |