

School of Letters
Ambedkar University Delhi
MPhil Course Outline

Course Codes: SOL3CL001

Title: Genealogies of Comparative Literature and Translation Studies

Type of Course: Core for MPhil Programme

Cohort for which it is compulsory: MPhil Comparative Literature and Translation Studies

No of Credits: 4

Semester and Year Offered: Monsoon 2017

Course Coordinator and Team: Prof. Radha Chakravarty and Dr Shad Naved

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Pre-requisites: None

Aim: This is a core course for researchers in Comparative Literature and Translation Studies. It specifies the meeting grounds between comparison and translation as literary-critical practices: in exemplary historical moments/scenes of translation that shape our literary pasts and presents; in the notion of “world literature” as promoted in Orientalist discourse as an organizing principle of literary writing and analysis; through genre theory looking at genres that have travelled and evolved across historical and cultural geographies; key moments in the development of the languages of literary criticism; and the idea of translation itself as intervention, especially in literary history, cultural critique and close reading.

Brief description of modules/ Main modules: The course has the following five modules:

Module 1: Invention of Translation: Scenes from History

Radiating from the nineteenth-century moment of linguistic and cultural translation, this module identifies exemplary moments/scenes of translation that shape our literary pasts and presents. Examples: Fort William College translations (early 19th c.); Arabic translation movement (c. 10th c.); *Translatio* in the Renaissance (c. 14th-15th c.); *Rupantar* and *Anuvad*; Bhakti poetries and orality; Bible translations in European & Indian History.

Module 2: Origins of “world literature”

This module critiques the idea of “world literature” as promoted in Orientalist discourse as an organizing principle of literary writing and analysis.

Module 3: Genres and their Migrancy

This module examines the novel, the lyric and life-writing as genres that have travelled and evolved across historical and cultural geographies.

Module 4: Literary Critical Lexicons

This module has two parts. The first introduces key vocabulary and concepts from western (Greek, Latin and Renaissance) and eastern (Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Arabo-Persian and Urdu) poetics. The second is a reflection on these vocabularies and concepts by modern historians and critics. The module gives a historical sense of the development of the languages of literary criticism.

Module 5: Translational Approaches

This module presents the idea of translation as intervention, especially in terms of literary history, cultural critique and close reading.

Assessment Details with weights:

Continuous evaluation based on:

Class participation (including weekly response papers and class discussion): 20%

Seminar presentation: 40%

Final Paper: 40%

Reading List:

Module 1:

For detailed study:

- Curtius, Ernst R. *European Literature and the Latin Middle Ages*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1953 [selections].
- Das, Sisir K. 'Prologue', *History of Indian Literature*, vol. 1. New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 1993.

Suggested reading:

- Gutas, Dimitri. *Greek Thought, Arabic Culture: The Graeco-Arabic Translation Movement in Baghdad and Early 'abbāsid Society (2nd-4th/8th-10th Centuries)*. London: Routledge, 1998.

Module 2:

For detailed study:

- Auerbach/Homer: Auerbach, Erich. *Odyssey/Mimesis: The Representation of Reality in Western Literature*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1953.
- Goethe/Hafiz: Goethe, Johann W, Martin Bidney, and Peter A. Arnim. *West-east Divan: The Poems, with "notes and Essays" : Goethe's Intercultural Dialogues*. Albany, N.Y: State University of New York Press, 2010; Ḥāfez, Šams -D. M, and Arthur J. Arberry. *Fifty Poems of*

Hafiz. Cambridge: University Press, 1962.

- Tagore/Kabir: *Songs of Kabir*, translated by Rabindranath Tagore. New Delhi: Cosmo Press, 1985. And Arvind K. Mehrotra. *Songs of Kabir*. New York: New York Review Books, 2011.
- Toni Morrison: *The Bluest Eye/Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1992.

Suggested reading:

- Milton/Michael Madhusudhan Dutt: Milton, John, and Gordon Teskey. *Paradise Lost: Authoritative Text, Sources and Backgrounds, Criticism*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2005; Dutt, Michael M, and William Radice. *The Poem of the Killing of Meghnād =: Meghnādbadh Kābya*. New Delhi: Penguin Books, 2010.
- Shakespeare/Butalia: *Hamlet/When Hamlet Came to Mizoram* [film]
- Conrad/Tyeb Salih: *Heart of Darkness/ Season of Migration to the North*
- Rousseau/Jacques Derrida (on Chinese): *Essay on the Origins of Language/Of Grammatology*.
- Ovid/David Malouf: *Metamorphosis/An Imaginary Life*.

Module 3:

For detailed study:

- Novel: Salman Rushdie, *Grimus*
- Ghazal: Agha Shahid Ali, Faiz, Ghalib

Suggested readings:

- Bankim, *Anandamath*.
- Gorky, *Mother*.
- William Jones, 'Essay on the Arts, Commonly Called Imitative'.
- Anita Desai, *In Custody*.

Module 4:

a) Readings

- G.N. Devy, ed. *Indian Literary Criticism*. Delhi: Orient Blackswan, 2010. [selections]

(b) Re-readings

- Sharankumar Limbale, *Towards an Aesthetic of Dalit Literature: History, Controversies, and Considerations*. Translated by Alok Mukherjee Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan, 2004.

Suggested readings:

- A.K. Ramanujan, 'Three Hundred Ramayanas'. In *Collected Essays of A.K. Ramanujan*, ed. Vinay Dharwadkar. New Delhi: OUP, 1999.
- Narayana, Rao V, David D. Shulman, and Sanjay Subrahmanyam. *Textures of Time: Writing History in South India*. New York: Other Press, 2003.
- Shamsur Rahman Faruqi, *Early Urdu Literary Culture and History*.
- Edward Said, Essays on Swift in *The World, the Text and the Critic*.

- Kilito, Abdelfattah. *The Author and His Doubles: Essays on Classical Arabic Culture*. Syracuse, N.Y: Syracuse University Press, 2001.
- Irawati Karve, *Yugānta: The End of an Epoch*. Original Marathi version published in 1967. Hyderabad: Disha Books, 1991.

Module 5:

For detailed study:

- Tejaswini Niranjana, *Siting Translation: History, Post-Structuralism, and the Colonial Context*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992. [Extracts]
- Venuti, Lawrence. *The Translation Studies Reader*. New York: Routledge, 2004. [selections]

Suggested readings:

- Trivedi, Harish. *Colonial Transactions: English Literature and India*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1995.
- Gayatri Spivak, 'Translation as Culture', *Parallax*, vol. 6, no. 1 (2000).