

School of Human Studies
Ambedkar University Delhi
Course Outline

Time Slot-_____

Course Code: SHS201723

Title: Life at the Margins

Type of Course: Discipline (Psychology)

Cohort for which it is compulsory: MA Psychology

Cohort for which it is elective:

No of Credits: 4

Semester and Year Offered: 2nd Semester (Winter Semester 2018)

Course Coordinator and Team: Deepti Sachdev Course Team: Deepti Sachdev, Honey Oberoi, Anup Dhar

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

Pre-requisites:

Aim: The course 'Life at the Margins' will establish linkages between wider socio-politico-historical processes and their impact upon our subjectivities. Through a focus on the *discourse*, *site*, and *phenomenology* of marginality, we attempt to understand what happens to human experience in the wake of social suffering, loss and trauma. How does one come to re-inhabit a world that has been torn asunder? How do we understand the survival and death of the self in states of continued oppression of a community? What are the historical inversions and recreation of the victim-victimizer position that occur in the psychic attempts at inclusion and mastery? How do communities move from mourning to healing, restoring and assimilating? What are the identity and leadership processes at the margins? What are the figurations of desire and creativity in this space?

The course aims to enable students to approach 'marginality' as a psychosocial imaginary- one in which theory and fieldwork come together towards a radicalized imagination of clinical-community work, where the reassurances of both *privacy* and *permanence* of the clinical contract are put under erasure, and a possibility for a 'pavement epistemology' can be recovered.

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

Module 1: Framing the course: Imagining and thinking about the potential face of psychology that could emerge from an engagement with relatively unexamined social and subjective spaces- "What would such a psychology look like?"

Module 2: The field and its vagaries. Positionality of the researcher- *Writing* culture and *listening* to loss.

Module 3: Psychodynamic reflections on class and gender

Module 4: Engaging with the historical survivor: Issues of dislocation and refugeehood

Module 5: Childhood at the Margins

Module 6: Identity and Leadership as processes of creative symbolization

Assessment Details with weights:

1. Written assessment: 40 percent
2. Group Presentations: 40 percent
3. Class participation/Reflections: 20 percent

Reading List (indicative):

- Mirrors of Violence: (ed.) Veena Das
- Life and Words: Veena Das
- Culture and Truth: Remaking of Social Analysis: Renato Rosaldo
- Death Without Weeping: Nancy Shepher Hughes
- Analyst in the Inner City: Neil Altman
- Social Suffering: Arthur Kleinman
- Unclaimed Experience: C Caruth
- Surviving and Other Essays: Bruno Bettelheim
- Therapeutic care for refugees: no place like home: Papadopoulos
- Wretched of the Earth: Franz Fanon
- Deprivation and Delinquency: D W Winnicott
- Identity and Life Cycle: Erik Erikson
- Home is Where we start from: D W Winnicott
- Testimony: Crises of Witnessing in Literature, Psychoanalysis and History: Felman & Daub
- History and Human Survival: Robert Jay Lifton
- Death in Life: Lifton
- Lives in exile: Honey O Vahali
- Psychoanalysis, Class and Politics: Encounters in the clinical setting. Lynne Layton
- Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography (ed James Clifford)
- Subjectivity: Ethnographic Investigations (ed Arthur Kleinman)
- Psychoanalysis and Feminism: Juliet Mitchell
- Bonds of Love: Jessica Benjamin