

School of Letters/School of Liberal Studies

Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Course Codes: SOL2CL107 (MA English batch of 2016-18 should contact the English programme coordinator for the course code)

Title: Narrative and Narratology

Type of Course: Elective (for all disciplines)

Cohort for which it is compulsory: None

No of Credits: 4

Semester and Year Offered: Monsoon 2017

Course Coordinator and Team: Mr Sandeep R Singh

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

Pre-requisites: None

Aim: The field of narratology refers to the study of the narrative. The objective of the study is to analyse and comprehend themes, motifs and stylistics of the narrative and compose a set of common factors that constitute a narrative. In studying the structure of a narrative, narratology scrutinises the modes and means through which the narrative affects and influences our engagement with text, context, history and culture. The course will also attempt to establish a link between life and narrative. The importance of the narrative and its relevance to perception has magnified with the explosion of narrative modes like television and film.

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

Module 1. Introducing Narrative and Narratology

This introductory module will present to the students both classical and contemporary theories that look at the concept of narrative and raise questions on narratology. Readings in this module will look at how narratives operate, features of narratology, structural and formalistic understanding of texts drawing on Indic and Western traditions. The module will provide a theoretical base enabling students to critically analyse and engage with the texts in the other modules.

Module 2. Narrative Strategies: Making of the Text

This module will explore literary texts within the purview of forms of narrative and narrative techniques employed. An attempt will be made to study technical aspects like narrator, plot, focalisation,

perspective, points of view and time. The readings will therefore look at a structural understanding of narrative.

Module 3. Types of Narratology: Modes of Reading

In this module the discussion will move towards the many ways in which narrative modes can be read to examine the discursive agenda of narrative structures. This module will therein look at the interplay between text and reader and how narratives work toward establishing modes of reading.

Module 4. Working with Narratives

In this module students are expected to work with narrative theory and analyse any literary text or film or a television series of their choice.

Assessment Details with weights:

Continuous evaluation based on:

Class participation (this may include quiz/test/presentation): 20%

Mid-term assignment: 40%

Term paper (including submission of abstract and approval of first draft) 40% [This will be a research paper.]

Reading List:

Module 1:

- Aristotle. *Poetics* (Chapters 6-15). Trans. Joe Sachs. Newburyport: Focus Publishing, 2006, pp.26-43.
- *The Dhvanyaloka of Anandavardhana and the Locana of Abinavagupta* (Chapter 1, First Karika). Trans. Ingalls, Daniel H.H., Jeffrey Mousaieff Masson and M.V. Patwardhan. Harvard University Press, 1990, pp-43-74.
- Barthes, Roland. "An Introduction to the Structural Analysis of Narrative." *New Literary History* 6.2 (1975): 237-72. *JSTOR*. Web. 23 June 2013.
- Paniker, K. Ayyappa. "The Theory and Practice of Narrative in India" in *Indian Narratology*. New Delhi: IGNCA with Sterling Publishers, 2003, pp.1-17
- Fludernik, Monika. "Histories of Narrative Theory (II): From Structuralism to the Present" in *A Companion to Narrative Theory*, eds. James Phelan and Peter J. Rabinowitz. Malden: Blackwell Publishing, 2005, pp. 36-59.
- Ricouer, Paul. *Time and Narrative, Vol. I*. Trans. McLaughlin, Kathleen and David Pellauer. University of Chicago Press, 1983, pp.5-51

Module 2:

- Fludernik, Monica. "The structure of narrative" in *An Introduction to Narratology*. Trans. Patricia Hausler-Greenfield and Monika Fludernik. New York and London: Routledge, 2009, pp. 21-39.
- Excerpts from Euripides' *Medea*. Trans. Philip Vellacott. New Delhi: Penguin, 2002.
- Excerpts from Kalidasa's *Kumarasambhava*. Trans. M.R. Kale, New Delhi: Motilal Banarasidass, 2011.
- Excerpts from Dostoyevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov* (1880). Trans. Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky, London: Vintage, 2004.
- Tagore, Rabindranath. "The Exercise Book" ("Khata" 1894) in *Individual and Society: Essays, Stories and Poems*, eds, Sood, Vinay et al. New Delhi: Pearson, 2006, pp. 76-85.

Module 3:

- Iser, Wolfgang. "The Reading Process: A Phenomenological Approach." In *Modern Criticism and Theory*, eds. David Lodge and Nigel Wood. New Delhi: Pearson, 2007, pp. 207-223.
- Hansberry, Lorraine. *Raisin in the Sun* (1959). New York: Vintage, 2004.
- Limbale, Sharankumar. *The Outcaste (Akkarmashi)*. New Delhi: Oxford, 2007.
- Rich, Adrienne "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers" and "Diving into the Wreck"; Sylvia Plath "Lady Lazarus" and selections from *The Unabridged Journals of Sylvia Plath, 1950-1962*, ed. Karen V. Kukil. New York: Anchor, 2000.
- Excerpts from Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness* (1899). New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Module 4:

Selections from:

- Bakhtin, Mikhail Mikhailovich. *The Dialogic Imagination: Four Essays*. Trans. Caryl Emerson and Holquist. Ed. Michael Holquist. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1981
- Genette, Gérard. *Narrative Discourse*. Trans. Jane E. Lewin. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1980.

- Lanser, Susan. "Toward a Feminist Narratology." *English Department, University of Georgia*. 674-693. Web. 4 May 2013
http://www.english.uga.edu/~eberle/homepage%20materials/lanser_femnnarratology.pdf
- Propp, Vladimir. *Morphology of the Folktale*. Trans. Laurence Scott. University of Texas Press, 2009.
- White, Hayden. *The Fiction of Narrative: Essays on History, Literature, and Theory, 1957-2007*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 2010.