

School of Letters
Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Time Slot-Monday, 11-1 and Wednesday, 11-1

Course Code: SLS2CL103 / SOL2CL103

Title: Philology for Our Times

Type of Course: Discipline (Comparative Literature and Translation Studies- Elective)

Cohort for which it is compulsory: NA

Cohort for which it is elective: All MA

No of Credits: 4

Semester and Year Offered: 2 and 4 Semester (Winter Semester 2018)

Course Coordinator and Team: Sandeep R. Singh and CLTS Faculty

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

Pre-requisites: None

Aim:

1. To introduce students to the modes of comparatist thinking.
2. To study texts from the past (both immediate and remote) with scholarly confidence.
3. To develop habits of reading for meaning beyond the givenness of words and themes.

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

Module 1. Beyond Chronology

Philology is a tool for history but it does not work through strict chronology, such as in conventional historiography. So how do we glean historical movements from texts? How is literary understanding (based on poetics) different from, say, historical or sociological knowledges?

Module 2. Textual Layers

Philology considers the text as the ecology of language, world and interpretation. We can imagine these aspects as textual membranes which reside in the text. However, how do we access these membranes?

Simply through close reading? Or is there another method of reading which is both close and historical-linguistic?

Module 3. Rhetorics of Identity

How does language produce effects and realities of identity? In other words, how do language and power intersect in textual practices in ways that affect and determine social relations? The readings below include some colonial and postcolonial contexts.

Module 4. Idioms of Translation

This module posits the centrality of translation in the processes of the circulation and reception of texts across cultures and historical periods. How is a world of literature expressed through translation practices beyond one's own language?

Assessment Details with weights:

1. Class participation (may include presentations and class discussion): 20%
2. Take-home assignment: 10%
3. Mid-term paper: 30%
4. Final paper (of about 3000 words): 40%

Reading List:

Module 1. Beyond Chronology

Guess, Raymond and Alexander Nehamas. *Nietzsche: Writings from the Early Notebooks (Cambridge Texts in the History of Philosophy)*. Trans. Ladislaus Löb. Cambridge University Press, 2009

Sisir Kumar. "The Idea of Literary History". In Ipsita Chanda, ed. *Literary Studies in India: Literary Historiography*. Kolkata: Jadavpur Univ. Press, 2004. 42-48.

Said, Edward. "Vico in His Work and in This". In *Beginnings: Intention and Method*. New York: Basic Books, 1975.

Ricoeur, Paul. *Time and Narrative, Vol. I*. Trans. McLaughlin, Kathleen and David Pellauer. University of Chicago Press, 1983.

Benjamin, Walter. "On Language as Such and on the Language of Man" (1916) in *Walter Benjamin: Selected Writing, Volume I: 1913-1926*. Massachusetts: Belknap, 1996. 62-74

Module 2. Textual Layers

Primary Text

Coetzee, J.M. *Waiting for the Barbarians*. London: Penguin, 1982.

Readings (selections from)

Moi, Toril. *Revolution of the Ordinary*. Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan, 2017.

Auerbach, Erich. *Mimesis: The Representation of Reality in Western Literature*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000.

Geertz, Clifford. 'Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture.' In *Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: Basic Books. 2000. 3-30.

Spivak, Gayatri. 'Echo.' In Spivak, Gayatri C, Donna Landry, and Gerald M. MacLean. *The Spivak Reader: Selected Works of Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak*. New York: Routledge, 1996.

Kosambi, D. D. 'Urvashi and Pururavas'. In Kosambi, D D. *Myth and Reality: Studies in the Formation of Indian Culture*. Bombay: Popular Prakashan, 1962.

Module 3. Rhetorics of Identity

Primary Text

Ahmed, Mohsin. *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*. London: Hartcourt, 2007.

Readings (selections from)

Suleri, Sara. *The Rhetoric of English India*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992.

Thiong'o, Ngũgĩ wa. "Decolonizing the Mind." In Ngũgĩ, wa T. *Decolonizing the Mind: The Politics of Language in African Literature*. London: J. Currey, 1986.

Kilito, Abdelfattah, and Wail S. Hassan. *Thou Shalt Not Speak My Language*. Syracuse, N.Y: Syracuse University Press, 2008.

Devy, G N. *After Amnesia: Tradition and Change in Indian Literary Criticism*. Bombay: Orient Longman, 1992.

Césaire, Aimé. *Discourse on Colonialism*. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1972.

Module 4. Idioms of Translation

Primary Text

Kafka, Franz. *The Metamorphosis* (1915). Trans. Joyce Crick. Oxford World Classics, 20009

Readings (selections from)

Benjamin, Walter. "Task of the Translator." *Illuminations*. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1968. 69-82.

Venuti, Lawrence. "Translating Derrida on Translation: Relevance and disciplinary resistance." In Venuti, Lawrence. *Translation Changes Everything: Theory and Practice*. London: Routledge, 2013.

Kalitā, Arūpā P, and Tapan Basu. *Translating Caste*. New Delhi: Katha, 2002.

Mukherjee, Sujit. *Translation As Discovery and Other Essays on Indian Literature in English Translation*. New Delhi: Allied, 1981.

Niranjana, Tejaswini. *Siting Translation: History, Post-Structuralism, and the Colonial Context*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE:

Foucault, Michel. 'Nietzsche, Genealogy, History.' In *Language, Counter-Memory, Practice: Selected Essays and Interviews*. Trans. Bouchard and Simon. Cornell UP, 1980.

Lambropoulos, Vassilis. *The Rise of Eurocentrism: Anatomy of Interpretation*. Princeton UP, 1993.

Pollock, Sheldon, Benjamin A. Elman and Ku-Ming Kevin Chang, eds. *World Philology*. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2015.

Dasgupta, Subha Chakraborty. *Literary Studies in India: Genology*. Kolkata: Jadavpur U, 2004.

Bassnett, Susan. Selections from *Reflections on Translation*. "Original Sin", "Dangerous Translation", etc.

Said, Edward. "Secular Criticism". In *The World, the Text and the Critic*. Harvard UP, 1983.