

School of Letters
Ambedkar University Delhi
MPhil Course Outline

Course Codes: SOL3CL401

Title: Issues in Thematology: Minor Literature

Type of Course: Elective for MPhil Programme in CLTS

Cohort for which it is compulsory: None

No of Credits: 4

Semester and Year Offered: Winter 2018

Course Coordinator and Team: Dr Shad Naved

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

Pre-requisites: None

Aim: 'How to become a nomad and an immigrant and a gypsy in relation to one's own language? Kafka answers: steal the baby from the crib, walk the tightrope.' Thus Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari hold Franz Kafka as exemplary of minority in literary writing. As they note, minor literature is not written in a minor/subjugated language, but in one of the 'major' languages of the world but from someone who is in a relation of minority to it. The effect is one of deterritorialization of the major language and the enunciation of a political worldview that the major language would not have easily accepted.

While named after a programmatic nomenclature and statement, this course steals this major idea of western literary criticism and proposes ways to walk the tightrope of minor literature as (i) comparisons between 'other' minor literary encounters from non-European genealogies; and (ii) comparisons in literary history to build new genealogies of the minor, not confined to its modern iterations.

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

- 1 Theories of Minority
- 2 Inscriptions of Minority
- 3 "Third-World" Literature

Assessment Details with weights:

Continuous evaluation based on:

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

Seminar presentation: 40%

Final Paper (5000 words max): 40%

Reading List:

Bhabha, Homi. 'DissemiNation: Time, narrative and the margins of the modern nation.' In *Locations of Culture*. London: Routledge, 1994.

Chakrabarty, Dipesh. 'Minority Histories, Subaltern Pasts'. In *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 2000.

Deleuze, Gilles, and Félix Guattari. *Kafka: Toward a Minor Literature*. Trans. Dana Polan. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1986.

Mufti, Aamir. 'Auerbach in Istanbul: Edward Said, Secular Criticism, and the Question of Minority Culture'. *Critical Inquiry* 25: 1, 1998.

Jameson, Fredric. 'Third-World Literature in the Era of Multinational Capitalism'. *Social Text* (15), 1986.

Ahmad, Aijaz. 'Jameson's Rhetoric of Otherness and the "National Allegory"', in *In Theory* (1992).

Prasad, M. Madhava. 'On the Question of a Theory of (Third) World Literature'. In McClintock et al., *Dangerous Liaisons* (1997).