

**Out of Syllabus  
Reading List**

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**I. Starting Off (November'21 - January'22)**

**Session 1**

Dipesh Chakrabarty, *The Climate of History: Four Theses* (2009), and Sandeep Banerjee, *Beyond the Intimations of Mortality* (2017)

**Session 2**

Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition* (1958)

**Session 3**

Mahasweta Devi, *Draupadi* (1981)

**II. The Muslim Question (March'22 - May'22)**

**Session 1**

Darryl Li, *The Universal Enemy: Jihad, Empire, and the Challenge of Solidarity* (2019)

**Session 2**

Darren Byler, *Terror Capitalism: Uyghur Dispossession and Masculinity in a Chinese City* (2021)

**Session 3**

Saaed Naqvi, *The Muslim Vanishes* (2022)

**III. Production of Space (July '22 - September '22)**

**Sessions 1-5**

Henri Lefebvre, *The Production of Space* (1974)

## **Two-Term Series: History of Ideas**

### **IV. Emergence of the West (November '22 - January '23)**

#### **Session 1 - The Birth of Christianity**

The Bible, New Testament, Paul's Epistle to the Romans (55 CE)

#### **Session 2 - A New Ethics and Politics**

St. Augustine, City of God (426 CE)

#### **Session 3 - On Just Rule**

St. Francis of Assisi, The Six Letters (1181 – 1226 CE)

#### **Session 4 - Universalism and the Human Condition**

John Locke, An Essay Concerning Human Understanding (1689 CE)

#### **Session 5 - Progress of History**

Hegel, The Philosophy of History (1837 CE)

### **V. On the Postcolony (March '23 - May '23)**

#### **Session 1 - The Other Within I**

Karl Marx, The Jewish Question (1844)

#### **Session 2 - The Other Within II**

Antonio Gramsci, The Southern Question (1926)

#### **Session 3 - Guilt, Repression and Civilization**

Sigmund Freud, Civilization and its Discontents (1930)

#### **Session 4 - Race and the Education of Desire**

Franz Fanon, Black Skin, White Masks (1952)

#### **Session 5 - The Mind Colonised**

Ngugi wa Thiongo, Decolonising the Mind (1986)

#### **Session 6 - Possibility after Colonization**

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Americanah (2013)

## Two-Term Series: History of Meaning

### VI. On Structuralism (July '23 - September '23)

#### Session 1 - Signs, Symbols and Words

Terry Eagleton, *Literary Theory: An Introduction, Structuralism and Semiotics* (1983)

#### Session 2 - A World Filled with Signs

Ferdinand de Saussure, *Course in General Linguistics* (1916)

#### Session 3 - A World Filled with Signs (contd.)

Roman Jakobson, *The Metaphoric and Metonymic Poles* (1956)

#### Session 4 - Structure in Social Imagination

Claude Lévi-Strauss, *Four Winnebago Myths* (1960)

#### Session 5 - Connections

Edmund Leach, *Culture and Communication: The Logic by which Symbols Are Connected* (1976)

#### Session 6 - After Structure

Roland Barthes, *The Death of the Author* (1967)

### VII. After Structure (November '23 - January '24)

#### Session 1 - Reason

Jacques Lacan, *The Agency of the Letter in the Unconscious, or Reason Since Freud* (1957)

#### Session 2 - Inside/Outside

Jacques Derrida, *Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences* (1966)

#### Session 3 - Subjectivation

Michel Foucault, *The Hermeneutics of the Subject* (1981-82)

#### **Session 4 - Abjection**

Julia Kristeva, Powers of Horror: An Essay on Abjection (1980)

#### **Session 5 - Speech/Performance**

Judith Butler, Excitable Speech: Politics of the Performative (1997)

#### **Session 6 - Possibility**

Anand Pandian, A Possible Anthropology: Methods for Uneasy Times (2019)

### **VIII. Vita: Life Force (March '24 - May '24)**

#### **Session 1 - Life Force**

João Biehl and Torben Eskerod, Vita: Life in a Zone of Social Abandonment (2013)

#### **Session 2 - Interiority**

Stefania Pandolfo, Knot of the Soul: Madness, Psychoanalysis, Islam (2018)

#### **Session 3 - Pain**

Veena Das, "Language and Body: Transactions in the Construction of Pain" (1997)

#### **Session 4 - Alienation**

E. Valentine Daniel, "Suffering Nation and Alienation" (1997)

#### **Session 5 - Varuna-Mitra**

Bhriqupati Singh, Poverty and the Quest for Life: Spiritual and Material Striving in Rural India (2015)

#### **Session 6 - Closing**

Naisargi Dave, Indifference: On the Praxis of Interspecies Being (2023)

### **IX. Death (July '24 - September '24)**

#### **Session 1 - Introduction**

Leo Tolstoy, The Death of Ivan Ilych (1886)

### **Session 2 - Dying is an Art**

Michael Taussig, "Dying Is an Art, like Everything Else" (2001)

### **Session 3 - Grief**

Renato Rosaldo, *The Day of Shelly's Death: The Poetry and Ethnography of Grief* (2013)

### **Session 4 - Pain**

Talal Asad, "Notes On Body Pain And Truth In Medieval Christian Ritual" (1983)

### **Session 5 - Remains**

Ravi Nandan Singh, *Dead in Banaras: An Ethnography of Funeral Travelling* (2023)

### **Session 6 - End**

Vivek Narayanan, *After* (2023)

## **X. In Defence of Poetry (November '24 - January '25)**

### **Session 1 - Selections**

William Shakespeare, Sonnet 30; Pablo Neruda, *Finale*; Rainer Maria Rilke, *People at Night*; Anna Akhmatova, *The Muse*; W H Auden, *The More Loving One*

### **Session 2 - Poetics**

Aristotle, *Poetics* (335 BCE)  
Homer, *Iliad* (Trans. Caroline Alexander)

### **Session 3 - A Defence of Poetry**

Percy Shelley, *A Defence of Poetry* (1821)  
William Blake, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*

### **Session 4 - The Ancient Indian Tradition**

Sheldon Pollock, *A Rasa Reader* (2016)  
Īśa Upaniṣad (Trans. Andrew Schelling); Nammalvar (Trans. AK Ramanujan); Lal Ded (Trans. Andrew Schelling)

### **Session 5 - The Indian Modern**

Arvind Krishna Mehrotra, *Looking for AK Ramanujan* (2004)  
Arun Kolatkar, *A Low Temple*; Jayanta Mahapatra, *Dawn at Puri*

## **Session 6 - The Contemporary**

Louise Glück, The Nobel Lecture (2023)

Fady Joudah, National Park; Ilya Kaminsky, I Ask That I Do Not Die; Natalie Diaz, Postcolonial Love Poem; Dong Li, Event; Samar Sen (trans. Sandeep Banerjee), Farewell To Paradise