

HSS4081 : Ethnic Conflict: Literature and South Asia

Programme: B.Tech. (CSE/CCE/ECE/MME)
Course : HSS Elective

Year: IV
Credits : 3

Semester : Odd
Hours : 40

Course Context and Overview (100 words):

Ethnic Conflict is the lived reality of present day South Asia. A few examples can be seen in the insurgency in partition of India, Kashmir and Punjab insurgency, partition of Pakistan, Tamil and Sinhalese conflict in Sri Lanka, Post-soviet Afghanistan etc. The postcolonial South Asia has been subjected to a politics of an interplay between identity, politics, and violence. The course starts by providing the analytical/theoretical lens of ethnic conflict to analyze the major cases of identity-based political violence including ethnic separatist insurgency and counter-insurgency, communal violence and post-conflict challenges of rehabilitation and reconciliation. The primary goal of this course is to provide students with a critical understanding of these phenomena through the prism of the literature of South Asia.

Prerequisites Courses: None

Course outcomes(COs):

On completion of this course, the students will be able to:
CO1: Critically understand ethnic conflict and nationalism
CO2: Investigate into Politics of partition and consequent violence in South Asia
CO3: Understand the politics and ramifications of insurgency and counter-insurgency, and communal violence in South Asia
CO4: Better respond to the questions of trauma and cultural identity
CO5: Have enhanced inter-personal communication and presentation skills

Course Topics:

Topics	Lecture Hours	
UNIT – I		
1.1 Understanding Cultural Diversity of South Asia and Postcolonial Ethnic Divisions 1.2 Theories of Ethnic Conflict: Primordial, Instrumentalist and Constructivist 1.3 Theorising Nation and Nationalism 1.4 Trauma and Identity	10	

UNIT – II		
Ethnic Conflict and Partition: India, Pakistan and Bangladesh Abstracts from: Salman Rushdie: <i>Midnight's Children</i> ; <i>Shalimar the Clown</i> ; Tahmima Anam: <i>A Golden Age</i> ; <i>The Good Muslim</i> ; Uzma Aslam Khan: <i>The Geometry of God</i> ; Kamila Shamsie's <i>Kartography</i>	10	
UNIT – III		
Insurgency and Ethnic Nationalism 3.1 Insurgency and Counter-Insurgency in Kashmir (Abstracts from: Basharat Peer's <i>Curfewed Nights</i> ; Agha Shahid Ali: <i>The Country Without a Post Office</i>); Vishal Bharadwaj: <i>Haider</i> (Film) 3.2 Sinhalese Nationalism vs Tamil Nationalism in Sri Lanka (Jean Arasanayagam's <i>Epocalyse '83</i> ; <i>All is Burning</i>)	12	
UNIT – IV		
Cold War and Ethnic Violence in Afghanistan (Abstracts from: Khalid Husseni: <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> (2007); Nadeem Aslam: <i>Wasted Vigil</i> (2008))	8	

Textbook references (IEEE format):**Text Book: (Select extracts/ stories/ poems from the following books):**

1. Salman Rushdie: *Midnight's Children* (1981)
2. Salman Rushdie: *Shalimar the Clown* (2005)
3. Tahmima Anam: *A Golden Age* (2007)
4. Basharat Peer: *Curfewed Nights*
5. Jean Arasanayagam: *Epocalyse 1983*
6. Khalid Husseni: *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (2007)
7. Nadeem Aslam: *Wasted Vigil* (2008)
8. Jean Arasanayagam: *All is Burning* (1995)
9. Agha Shahid Ali: *The Country Without a Post Office* (1997)
10. Vishal Bharadwaj: *Haider* (Film) (2014)
11. Uzma Aslam Khan: *The Geometry of God* (2008)
12. Kamila Shamsie's *Kartography* (2002)

Reference books/Articles:

1. Jeffrey C. Alexander: *Trauma: A Social Theory*
2. Cathy Caruth: *Unclaimed Experience: Trauma, Narrative and History*
3. Neal G. Jesse & Kristen P. Williams: *Ethnic Conflict: A Systematic Approach to Cases of Conflict*
4. Donald L Horowitz: *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*
5. Donald L Horowitz: *The Deadly Ethnic Riot*
6. Benedict Anderson: *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (1983)
7. Homi Bhabha (ed.): *Nation and Narration*

Additional Resources (NPTEL, MIT Video Lectures, Web resources etc.):

Evaluation Methods:

Evaluation criteria will be shared by the concerned course instructor.

Prepared By:

Last Update: _____