

Memory in South Asian Literature

Programme: B. Tech
Course: OE (HSS)

Year: IV
Credits: 03

Semester: 2022-23(I)
Hours: 40

Course Context and Overview:

This course aims to focus on the need of studying 'memory' in the South Asian context, from historical, political as well as technological standpoints. There are major events in the political histories of India and South Asia which are being mediated through theoretical, textual, and empirical frames. The course seeks to study the existing and ongoing narrative interventions in a comprehensive manner so that re-examinations and possibilities can be explored for the preservation and reconstruction of events in memory and national history. For this, the course attempts to have a nuanced discussion on the literary and non-literary practices, methods, and digital tools that are being used to narrate and archive the significant and crucial events in Indian and South Asian historiography.

Prerequisites Courses: None

Course outcomes (COs):

On completion of this course, the students will have the ability to:

CO1: examine the embedded and extended models of memory at cultural levels

CO2: engage with the affective and immersive experiential quality of memory

CO3: probe the political implications of remembrances and forgetting of national events

CO4: analyze how the political and cultural developments inform the mediation/textualization of memories

CO5: explore how technology and digitalization can be utilized effectively in the preservation of cultural memories

Course Topics:

Topics	Lecture Hours
UNIT – I: Memory and its studies	6
1.1 Memory: Personal, Collective and Cultural	
1.2 Trauma and Affect Theories: Processes, Selections and Retentions	
1.3 Representations of Memories: Stories, narratives, and media	
UNIT – II: 1947 Partition and Cultural Memory	10
2.1 1947 Partition: Textual, Media and Material Representations	

2.2 Excerpts from Urvashi Butalia's <i>The Other Side of Silence</i>	
2.3 Mallika Ahluwalia's <i>Divided by Partition, United by Resilience: 21 Inspirational Stories from</i>	
2.4 Excerpts from Aanchal Malhotra's <i>Remnants of a Separation: A History of Partition through Material Memory</i> (2018)	
UNIT – III: Images and Cinematic Memorialization	
3.1 <i>Sardar Udham</i> - Remembering the violence and trauma of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre; <i>Bengal Shadows</i> - Buried stories of 1943 Famine	6
3.2 <i>Bhag Milkha Bhag</i> - Memories and displacement of Partition; <i>Manto</i> - Trauma, memory, and fragmentation of Identities	
3.3 <i>The Namesake</i> ; and <i>Brick Lane</i> - Travels, Memories and Metaphors	
UNIT – IV: Historical Events of South Asia and remembrances	
4.1 War and Violence: Excerpts from Samanth Subramaniam's <i>This Divided Island: Stories from the Sri Lankan War</i>	10
4.2 Creation of Bangladesh: Excerpts from Anam Zakaria's <i>1971: A People's History from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India</i>	
4.3 Kashmir and tragic tales: Excerpts from Freny Manecksha's <i>Behold I Shine: Narratives of Kashmir's Women and Children</i>	
UNIT – V: Archives, Memory Projects, and Technological Tools	
5.1 Indian Memory Projects; 1947 Partition Archive; Archival Material: Partition Museum; and National Archives on Partition	8
5.2 Archives of Economic Life in South and Southeast Asia; South Asian American Digital Archive; First Days Project; and Community Storytelling	
5.3 Cookbooks of South Asia; Indian Community Cookbook; and SEA Digital Archive	

Reference books:

1. Astrid Erll and Ansgar Nünning. *Cultural Memory Studies: An International and Interdisciplinary Handbook*. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter GmbH & Co, 2018
2. Cathy Caruth. *Unclaimed Experience: Trauma, Narrative, and History*. Baltimore: John Hopkins Press, 1996
3. Peter A. Levine. *Trauma and Memory: Brain and Body in a Search for the Living Past: A Practical Guide for Understanding and Working with Traumatic Memory*. Berkeley: North Atlantic Books, 2015
4. J Edward Mallot. *Memory, Nationalism, and Narrative in Contemporary South Asia*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012

Additional Resources: **Select NPTEL lectures, Web Sources on Indian and South Asian Histories**

Evaluation Criteria:

Component	Weightage
Quizzes (2/3)	20
Seminar Presentation	15
Mid Term	25
End Term	40

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Last Update: July 2022