

## **Course 652**

### **Counter Hegemonic Thought in the Global South**

**Course Instructor: Nivedita Menon/PK Datta**

**Credits : 3**

**Contact Hours : 4 per week**

**Evaluation: 1 term paper and end-semester examination**

#### **Introduction**

This course introduces students to thought from the global South apart from India (which is covered in M.Phil Course 2), drawing on resources offered by Japanese, Chinese, African, Caribbean and South Asian intellectual traditions and contemporary debates. The attempt is to offer students a panoramic view of scholarship across these regions through a focus on 5 central texts and 4 key themes that run across them.

The course will work towards developing perspectives on thought and theorizing that question and subvert the Eurocentric gaze and positioning of what is normally conceived of as theory and thought. It is multi disciplinary and inter disciplinary in scope. The readings are thus from Philosophy, Anthropology and Political Theory, History, Sociology and Cultural Studies.

#### **Course content**

In this course, students are expected to a close reading of four books from five different regions, and different kinds of interdisciplinary locations, learning to place these books on the context of relevant debates in their respective fields, and also to set up a conversation among these books.

Through these 4 selected texts, read alongside the background readings, students would reflect on the following themes that run through all of them:

a) the critique of 'modernity' from the perspective of the global South;

b) the question of translation of cultures both linguistically into English as well as conceptually, into terms legible to Modernity and 'the West', and the transformations entailed by this;

c) the manner in which 'gender' and 'women' get invoked in counter-hegemonic thinking; and

d) post-national thinking from 'below', as opposed to the post-nationalism offered by European philosophers such as Habermas.

Each text would be read over three weeks.

### **Main readings**

Walter D Mignolo *The Darker Side of Western Modernity. Global Futures, Decolonial Options*, Duke University Press, 2011

Naoki Sakai *Translation and Subjectivity*. University of Minnesota Press 1997.

Wang Hui *The Politics of Imagining Asia* Harvard University Press, 2011.

Fatima Mernissi *Islam and Democracy: Fear of the Modern World* Basic Books, 2009.

### **Additional background readings**

Ranjit Hoskote and Ilija Trojanow. *Confluences. Forgotten Histories from East and West*. Yoda Press 2012

Janet L. Abu-Lughod Before European Hegemony The World System A.D. 1250-1350, OUP (USA) 1991. Introduction

Ngugi wa Thiong'o *Decolonising the Mind* Zimbabwe Publishing House, 1994. Introduction and Chapter 4.

Malathi de Alwis et al "The Postnational Condition", *Economic and Political Weekly* Vol - XLIV No. 10, March 07, 2009.

Prasenjit Duara (2001) "Discourse of Civilization and Pan-Asianism" *Journal of World History*, Vol. 12, No. 1, Spring.

Gananath Obeyesekere "Asian Studies and the Discourse of the Human Sciences" in *What About Asia* Amsterdam University Press, 2006.

Chaohua Wang *One China, Many Paths* Verso 2005. Introduction and select chapters.

Min Dongchao "Duihua (Dialogue In-between): a Process of Translating the term 'Feminism' in China." *Interventions* vol 9 (2) 174-193

Rustom Bharucha (2006) *Another Asia: Rabindranath Tagore and Okakura Tenshin*, Oxford University Press. Introduction

Arturo Escobar *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World* (With a new preface by the author), Princeton University Press, 2011. Preface, Introduction, Conclusion.

Talal Asad, *Formations of the Secular: Christianity, Islam, Modernity*. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California. 2003. Introduction.

Ibrahim M Abu-Rabi "Towards Modern Arab Reason" in Ibrahim Abu-Rabi *Contemporary Arab Thought*, Pluto Press 2004

Jonardon Ganeri "Intellectual India. Reason, Identity, Dissent" *New Literary History* Vol 40, No. 2, Spring 2009, 247-263

Benno Glauser "Being Indigenous: the concept of indigeneity, a conversation with two Ayoreo leaders" in Sita Venkateswar and Emma Hughes ed. *The Politics of Indigeneity. Dialogues and reflections on Indigenous Activism* Zed Books, 2011

G N Devy Sections from the *GN Devy Reader*, Orient BlackSwan, 2009.