

SCHOOL OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Time Slot- Thursday: 11-1 (CR-8) and Friday: 9-11 (CR-7)

Course Code: ELCLTS915

Title: Contemporary Literatures from Northeast India: Poetry and Fiction

Type of Course: Elective

Cohort for which it is compulsory: None

Cohort for which it is elective: Open to all

No of Credits: 4

Semester and Year Offered: 3rd Semester (Monsoon 2018)

Course Coordinator and Team: Shelmi Sankhil

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

Pre-requisites: None

Aim: This course will introduce students to contemporary literatures from Northeast of India. Apart from the customary acknowledgement of the cultural and linguistic diversity of the region embedded in and represented by the readings, the course aims to engage with the poetics and modes of literary articulation of these poets/authors within a comparative framework. In other words, the course will introduce and encourage students to comparatively read literature coming from the Northeast of India.

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

Module 1: Poetry

This module contains five poems from “representative” poets from Arunachal, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura and Mizoram. The poems broach topics that range from the deeply personal to the conspicuous community histories in mostly lyrical form.

Mamang Dai: “The Voice of the Mountain”

Aruni Kashyap: “Assam, August”
Nini Lungalang: “Rock ”
Narendra Debbarma: “The Border”
Lalrinmawii Khiantge: “For a Better Tomorrow”

Module 2: Short story

Three stories set in Manipur, Assam and Meghalaya will be read in this module. The stories represent some pertinent themes like violence against women, secessionist movements, social fragmentation occasioned by the coming of modernity, etc.

Tayenjam Bijoykumar Singh: “The Mauled Cub”
Moushumi Kandali: “The Crossroads of Mukindon”
Wan Kharkrang: “The Magical Power of the Necktie”

Module 3: Novels

Two novels by two established women novelists from Nagaland and Assam will be read in this module. These texts address similar issues as raised in the texts contained in the two modules before. However, the scope of the form of the novel allows for a more in-depth exploration of those issues and other themes that constitute the heterogeneous reality of the region. These will be explored and taken up for engaged learning in the class.

Phukan, Mitra: *The Collector’s Wife*. Delhi: Penguin India, 2005
Kire, Easterine. *Life on the Hold*. Norway: Barkweaver & Ura Academy, 2011

Supplementary Readings:

Pou, Veio. *Literary Cultures of India’s Northeast: Naga Writings in English*. Heritage Publishing House, 2015

Robin S Ngangom: “Poetry in the Time of Terror” <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/23341046.pdf>

Tilottoma Misra: “Introduction” to *The Oxford Anthology of Writings from North-East India: Poetry*. OUP, 2010

—————: “Introduction” to *The Oxford Anthology of Writings from North-East India: Fiction*. OUP, 2010

Zama, Margaret. *Emerging Literatures from Northeast India: The Dynamics of Culture, Society and Identity*. Sage Publication, 2013.

Note for the student:

More readings will be recommended/provided in the course of the semester.

A Course Reader containing all the readings prescribed in modules 1-2 will be made available at the start of the semester. Students should collect it from the photocopy shop in the University.

Assessment Details with weights:

1. Class contribution: 30
2. Midterm: 30 (written test in class)
3. Term paper: 40 (written assignment to be submitted)