

## Ambedkar University Delhi

### Course Outline

Monsoon Semester (August- December, 2017)

<b>School:</b>	School of Letters			
<b>Programme with title:</b>	MA English			
<b>Semester to which offered: (I/ III/ V)</b>	I/III semester			
<b>Course Title:</b>	Folklore and Folkloristics			
<b>Credits:</b>	4 Credits			
<b>Course Code (new):</b>	SOL2EN341			
<b>Course Code (old):</b>	SLS2EN341			
<b>Type of Course:</b>	Compulsory	No	Cohort	MA English
	Elective	Yes	Cohort	
<b>Course Coordinator and Team:</b>	Dr. Amit Singh			
<b>Email of course coordinator:</b>	amit@aud.ac.in			
<b>Pre-requisites:</b>	None			

**Aim:** This course aims to prepare students in understanding the nuances of folklore and folkloristics, both in India and abroad. It seeks to sensitize them towards the rich oeuvre of folklore that surrounds them and also that inspired many literatures. It consciously prepares students for research in the prospective areas related to folklore.

The course deals with the concepts, forms, histories, terms, etymology, methods, and theories that help in understanding the documented as well as lived lores of people. The course begins with an attempt to trace the origin and development of folklore as a discipline, and investigates various theories that helped in this process. It attempts to investigate concept, nomenclature, definitions, and genres of folklore both in Indian as well as global contexts. It, also, attempts to trace the history and prospects of folklore and folkloristics through the representative texts and traditions. Class discussions and presentations will also investigate the generic osmosis between folklore and other streams of expression, like mythology, oral texts/ traditions, belief systems,

rituals, fairs, festivals, pilgrimages, epics, etc. Attempts will also be made to trace the intersections and interactions between folklore and nationalism, history and peoples' movements, vernacular art forms, paintings, music, dance, fairytales, children's literature, and such other areas. In other words, apart from investigating folklore as a discipline, this course also focuses on the "dialogues" between folklore and other genres of expression, like music, dance, performance/ art forms, cinema, literature, epics, and so on.

## **Brief description of Modules and Reading List**

### **Module I: Introduction**

This module seeks to introduce students to origin and evolution of the term folklore, and the development of folklore as a discipline through class lectures and basic readings.

1. **Concept:**
  - i) General
  - ii) Scholarly
2. **Nomenclature:**
  - i) Global
  - ii) Indian
3. **Definition:**
  - i) Public
  - ii) Academic
4. **Genres of Folklore:** Introduction to myths, legends, folktales, folksongs, proverbs, riddles, folk epics/ paintings/ performance/ beliefs and practices, foodways, habiliments, and material culture.

### **Module II: The Beginning of Folkloristics:**

This module will trace the history of folklore studies and analyze the works and contributions of pioneers in folklore studies through class lectures and basic readings. It will, also, involve thorough study of the following two texts to understand the process of collection, documentation, classification, and analysis of folklore.

1. *The Complete Grimms' Fairy Tales* by Grimm Brothers
2. *In Quest of Indian Folktales* by Pandit Ram Gharib Chaube and William Crooke

**Module III: Folk Epics:** The following epic will be discussed in workshop mode or through special lectures:

*The Legend of Ponnivala*

**Module IV: Methods, Analyses, Theories**

Students will be introduced to significant folklore methods and theories through class lectures and study of selections from the following texts:

1. *Morphology of the Folktale* by Vladimir Propp
2. *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* by Joseph Campbell

Following articles from *Folklore: Critical Concepts in Literary and Cultural Studies*, Volume IV, by Alan Dundes will also be taken up for the class discussions:

1. “Folk Lore: How it Arose, and What it Means” by Max Muller
2. “The Method of Folklore” by Andrew Lang
3. “On the Method of Determining the Value of Folklore as Ethnological Data” by Lawrence Gomme
4. “Why and How do We Collect Folk Music” by Bela Bartok
5. “Folk Atlas Mapping” by Robert Wildhaber
6. “The Historic-Geographic Method: Past and Future” by Christine Goldberg
7. “Tell it to the Walls: Tales about Tales” by A. K. Ramanujan
8. “Method and Interpretation in the Study of Folklore in India: A Comment” by Ved Prakash Vatuk in Kiran Hall
9. “Antonio Gramsci’s Contribution to Italian Folklore Studies” by Moyra Byrne

**Tentative Assessment schedule with details of weightage:**

S.No	Assessment	Date/period in which Assessment will take place	Weightage
1	<b>Response Paper</b>	End of August/Early September	10%

2	<b>Mid-Term Examination</b>	End of September	20%
3	<b>Understanding Foodways: Potluck and Symposium</b>	End of October	20%
4	<b>Class Presentations</b>	Mid November	20%
5	<b>Workshop Report/ Term Paper (30%)</b>	End of November	30%