

School of Human Studies
Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Time Slot-_____

Course Code:

Title: Psychic Work: Paradox and Process

Type of Course: Elective

Cohort for which it is compulsory:

Cohort for which it is elective: MA Psychology

No of Credits: 2

Semester and Year Offered: 4th Semester (Winter Semester 2018)

Course Coordinator and Team: Prof. Ashok Nagpal

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

Pre-requisites: All MA psychology courses of Semester 1,2,&3.

Aim: This being the last semester, we endeavour to engage with the core challenge of our Master's program in Psychology through different papers. This paper selects the focus on Psyche, akin to Ego, as capable of being addressed only indirectly in the manifestation of its work. Two prominent phenomena such as Dream-work and the work of Mourning reinvigorate our search to arrive in the interiors of being. The characteristic evanescence of Psyche which we have not fought shy by taking recourse to more prevalent but stereotypical forms of objectivity is sought to be grounded where making of mind or psyche is inaugurated in what we call as Identity moments wherein a sense of individual conviction could be tasted- howsoever illusory or dream-like it may appear, every now and then.

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

Course Details: (Course objectives, contents, reading list, instructional design, schedule of course transaction on the semester calendar with a brief note on each module)

Session 1: What qualifies as psychic work? Relationship with Dream-work and Work of Mourning. - How would we understand waste? What is the work of the bhikshu? What is the work of the thief?

Session 2: Working through some Aphorisms on Psyche

'Psyche is extended; knows nothing about it'

'Psyche is a relationship between two bodies one of which is absent'

'Psyche is a birth in surprise revealing an odd but ever-present relationship with the absent.'

Session 3: Psychic work in Holding – Going-on-Being, Gathering Bits, Unconscious dreaming, Preconscious Reverie, & Conscious Reflection.

To fall in love is to dream. Sex work: Can a sex worker dream? Thinking and Feeling in Passion of Love.

Reading list and References

Wilfred Bion: Taming Wild Thoughts

Botella and Botella: The work of Psychic Figurability

Erik Erikson: Insight and Responsibility

Green & Kohon: Love And Its vicissitudes

Thomas Ogden: This Art of Psychoanalysis

Ingmar's Bergman's Wild Strawberries

Assessment Methodology: Student's special ability to lead in gathering and articulating forms of passionate as well as de-passioned moments of participation will be used for assessment thru viva and written exams.

Tentative Assessment Plan

- 1) Class Participation – 20%
- 2) VIVA – 20%
- 3) Written Reflection – 30% + 30%