

Objectives:

- a) To focus Indian Dalit Literature as a significant locus of imaginative and polemical writing.
- b) To provide curricular recognition to the experience, art and knowledge of a subaltern section of the Indian society.
- c) To enable students explore the discussion on democracy, humanism, literature and self-expression through the medium of contemporary art.
- d) To familiarize the students with the building of a counter-canon in the Indian literary and artistic scenario.

Learning outcomes:

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- i) come into contact with key modern Dalit/Subaltern writers, thinkers, artists and varied concepts.
- ii) enhance their understanding of the issues at stake in the contemporary Dalit/ subaltern movements.
- iii) evolve an in-depth grasp of the field at the levels of experience as well as concepts.
- iv) extend their awareness of the social and aesthetic questions being raised in their writing as well as in the expression of protest, through the medium of contemporary art.

Course Description**Unit 1 Key Concepts**

Definition of the Dalit-Varna and caste hierarchy- Opposition to Brahminical hegemony and ideology-bhakti movement-B.R. Ambedkar's contribution to the Dalit movement Reservation – Dalit Movements- Dalit Panther Movement, Adi Dharm Movement-Dalit

Buddhist Movement-Role of Brahma Samaj and Arya Samaj-Kerala Renaissance-Narayana Guru and Ayyankali- the Dalit awakening-shaking off the social shackles- the development of Dalit sensibility- Emergence of Indian Dalit Literature- Language of the Dalit- Dalit women writers- Anita Dube's contribution for Dalit/ subaltern expression in Kochi-Muziris

Biennale- Dalit expression through installations and other conceptualistic form of contemporary art- Dalit prospects of development of independent sensibilities in art- Their attempts for social reform through self-expression in Art and Literature.

Unit II Poetry and Drama

- K.P Karuppan : “Pulayas”
- Poykayil Appachan : “Song”
- Pitambara Tarai: “Untouchable”
- N.D Rajkumar: “ Our Gods do not Hide”
- Siddhalingaiah: “The Dalits are Coming”
- K.A Gunasekaran: “Scape Goats”

Unit III Prose

- B.R Ambedkar: “Caste in India: Their Mechanism, Genesis and Development.”
- Gopal Guru : “Dalit Women Talk Differently.”
- Umma Chakravathy: “Conceptualising Brahminical Patriarchy in Early India: Gender, Class, Caste and State.”

Unit IV Fiction

- Meena Kandasamy: “The Gypsy Goddess.”
- P. Sivakami: “The Grip of Change.”

Unit V Autobiography

- Sharan Kumar Limbale: “The Outcaste”
- Bama : “Karukku”

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