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, Carribean 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**


**Additional background readings**


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


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