

PH.D. COURSES

Ph.D. Monsoon & Winter		
GR-601	4	Research Methodology
GR-608	4	Indo-German Encounter
GR 609	4	History of Literature - A Theoretical & Critical Approach

Course Number: GR 601

Level: PhD

Course Title: Research Methodology

Course Credits: 4

Course-in-Charge: Dr. Sahib Kapoor

Course Contents

This course will introduce students to the technical and theoretical aspects of research methodology with reference to the disciplinary history of German literature and culture studies. The course will evolve based on reading and practical assignments around the following segments:

1. Forschungsgegenstand
2. Kategorisierung in Forschungsstand und Forschungsfragen
3. Theorie, Methodologie und Perspektive in der Forschung
4. Forschungsprojekt und Präsentation

Course Evaluation:

Active Participation: 25%, Written Assignments: 25%, Referat: 25%, Term Paper/Synopsis: 25%

Bibliography:

(Digital Copies of all Reading materials will be sent to registered students)

Joachim Küpper KULTUR WISSENSCHAFT. *Poetica*, 2009, Vol. 41, No. 1/2 (2009), pp. 3-9 Brill

Manfred Engel and Uwe

Spörl *Auswahlbibliographie zur kulturgeschichtlichen Literaturwissenschaft. Teil 1: Theorie und Methodendiskussion. KulturPoetik*, 2001, Bd. 1, H. 1 (2001), pp. 141-158

Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht (GmbH & Co. KG) URL: <http://www.jstor.com/stable/40621627>

JSTOR

Manfred Engel *Kulturwissenschaft/en - Literaturwissenschaft als Kulturwissenschaft - kulturgeschichtliche Literaturwissenschaft. KulturPoetik*, 2001, Bd. 1, H. 1 (2001), pp. 8-36
Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht

Streit der Fakultäten: Area Studies und Fachdisziplinen in der Globalisierung. *Osteuropa*,
FEBRUAR- MÄRZ 2013, Vol. 63, No. 2/3, Zeit im Spiegel: Das Jahrhundert der
Osteuropaforschung (FEBRUAR- MÄRZ 2013), pp. 81-102 Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag

Course No.: GR608

Course Title: Indo-German Encounters

Course-in-Charge: Dr. Michael Stadler

Course Credits: 4

Course Contents

The course “Indo-German Encounters” offers an interdisciplinary exploration of the historical, philosophical, political, and practical dimensions of the relationship between India and Germany. Structured in four parts, the course begins with a historical-philosophical approach based on Wilhelm Halbfass’s seminal work, *India and Europe: An Essay in Philosophical Understanding*. Halbfass’s book is foundational for understanding how Indian and European intellectual traditions have interacted, highlighting processes of mutual influence, misinterpretation, and the ongoing hermeneutic dialogue between cultures. The text’s critical reflection on concepts such as identity, culture, and philosophical understanding provides students with essential analytical tools for examining cross-cultural encounters, making it an indispensable resource for the course.

The second part adopts a contemporary-political perspective, drawing on Rajendra Jain’s *India and Germany in a Turbulent World: Perceptions, Perspectives, Prospects*. This book offers a comprehensive analysis of Indo-German relations since 1947, covering economic, political, defense, and scientific-technological cooperation, and addressing the challenges and opportunities faced by both countries in a changing geopolitical landscape. Jain’s work, based on extensive English and German sources, is justified as a core text for its up-to-date, nuanced examination of the evolving bilateral relationship, mutual perceptions, and prospects for future collaboration.

The third part of the course involves a practical field approach, with participants visiting key German institutions in Delhi, such as the German Embassy, Goethe-Institut, DAAD Regional Office, and DWIH Delhi. These visits provide firsthand insights into contemporary Indo-German cooperation in diplomacy, academia, culture, and research, bridging theoretical knowledge with practical experience.

In the final part, students contribute actively through presentations, researching and contextualizing one of the course topics or visited institutions, and supplementing their analysis with additional scholarly literature. This structure ensures a comprehensive, critical, and practice-oriented engagement with Indo-German encounters.

References

Halbfass, W. (1990) *India and Europe: An Essay in Philosophical Understanding* Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.

Jain, R.K. (2024) *India and Germany in a Turbulent World: Perceptions, Perspectives, Prospects*. London: Routledge.

Course Evaluation:

ACP: 25%, Continuous Evaluation: 25%, Report with Presentation: 50%

Course No.: GR 609

Course Title: History of Literature – A Theoretical and Critical Approach

Course Credits: 4

Course In-Charge: Prof. Rosy Singh, Dr. Shambhavi Prakash

Course Description

The first part of course focusses on the autobiographical narrative. Telling lifestories can be a cathartic experience or an act of political resistance or both. There are clear autobiographical accounts like the diary, the memoir or they may be dispersed in various works like essays, letters, photographs and paintings. The most intriguing signifier of autobiographical writing is the first person 'I' that is subjective and always in flux. Memory, remembering and forgetting are motifs that play an important role in the autobiographical writing. Various examples of autobiographies such as Saint Augustine's *Confessions*, *Dairy of Anna Frank*, *Diaries of Franz Kafka*, Günter Grass' *Peeling of the Onion*, Jean-Paul Sartre's *Words*, Simone de Beauvoir's *Memoirs of a Dutiful Daughter*, Marc Chagall's *My Life*, Urvashi Butalia's *The Other Side of Silence* and Omprakash Valmiki's *Joothan* will be discussed. The second part of the course will focus on the processes of remembering that are central to autobiographical writing. Through this, we will also move from the autobiographical 'I' to the collective 'we', as we discuss some of the seminal concepts related to memory studies, including that of collective memory. We will particularly explore theoretical debates on memory in the context of 20th century German history and literature. Students will be familiarized with key themes and debates in the field, such as those related to Vergangenheitsverdrängung- und –aufarbeitung, debates involving the relation between history, memory, and commemoration, as well as contemporary theories about cultural memory. Apart from scholarly literature on this topic, the course will include primary sources that shed light on creative representations and reinterpretations of the past.

Course Evaluation:

50% one class presentation (Rosy); 25% protocol (written & oral) and 25% presentation (written & oral) (Shambhavi)

End semester: none