

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

MHRD/AICTE Sponsored Winter School on Critical Thinking, Reading & Writing Skills:
Learning to Think, Read and Write the *Modernist* Way

(18-24 February 2010)

Objective: This course aims to enhance the existing critical thinking, reading and writing skills of the faculty of English in various AICTE sponsored Engineering colleges by enabling them to explore the unique fashion of thinking, reading and writing practiced by the modern continental thinkers. These explorations shall yield new insights, which shall open up exciting horizons in communication studies enabling the faculty of English in various Engineering Institutes to reorient their existing communicative strategies.

In order to open up new sites in thinking, reading and writing, this course has been divided into four sections. The first section shall make an attempt to enable the participants to re-locate the **genesis** of critical thinking within and across significant historical events. The second section intends to **interrogate contemporary issues** through the lens of modern critical thinking. The third section intends to provide **reading exercises** from modernist perspectives, and the final section explores new possibilities in modern **critical writing**.

Course content:

Section 1: The Genealogy of Modern Critical Thinking

From Renaissance to Enlightenment

From Enlightenment to imperialism

From Imperialism to world wars/holocaust/Bolshevik revolution

Section 2: Interrogating Contemporary issues through the lens of Modern Critical thinking

Descartes' *Radical Skepticism* and the AICTE/Institutes of Technical Excellence

Kant's *transcendental idealism* and the current Social critique

Hegel's *Dialectical World-view* and the logic of late capitalism

Nietzsche's *Will to Power* and Professional Ethics

Heidegger's *being* and Artificial Intelligence

Marx's *dialectical materialism* and New Age Professions

Adorno's *Culture industry* and Popular Culture

Sartre, Freedom and Consciousness after 9/11

Simon de Beauvoir, Matrimonial columns and Male Gaze

Saussure's *Paradigmatic Chain* and Hollywood Action Flicks

Section 3: Implementing modern critical thinking in reading written and visual texts

Exploring Unity and Harmony in T S Eliot's *Waste Land*

Self-reflexivity and issues of history in *God of Small Things*

Re-visiting question of identity in Arvind Adiga's *The White Tiger*

Theorizing global terrorism and conflict in the film *The Body of Lies* (*The film shall be screened*)

Critiquing Time in the film *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*
(*The film shall be screened*)

Section Four: Exploring new directions in Modern critical Writing

Re-assessing Texts and Hyper- text

Discoursing nation in Bhasha texts and Indian writing in English

Writing for resistance versus Writing for hegemony

Meeting life outside texts

Note: Each lecture shall be followed by an interactive session. The aim of this session would be to clarify the doubts of the participants while providing an occasion for them to engage with the faculty conducting the session. These sessions would last for 25-30 minutes. An effort shall be made to extract creative responses from the participants.

Faculty: The course aims to attract faculty from well-known institutes within India, preferably from Central Universities, other IITs and some of the top universities of the state. Apart from academics, we may also have creative writers/poets/literary critics, particularly those with keen interest in critical thinking, reading and writing skills. Lectures will also be delivered by the team of excellent faculty of our department with expertise in critical theory and literature.

Target Audience/Eligibility of the participants: This is a highly specialized course meant for faculty from various AICTE approved technical and Management institutes.

Note: The course aims to accommodate approximately 50 participants

How to Apply:

Interested participants should download the completed application form from the IIT website and submit the hard copy to the coordinator at the mailing address mentioned below.

Registration Fee: No Registration fee from participants from AICTE approved institute.

Rupees 4000/- from faculty from (Non-AICTE) Recognized/Deemed Universities, UGC Approved Colleges

Rupees 3000/- From MPhil and Ph.D Scholars

No registration fee from faculty and students of our Institute

Important Dates: Last date for receiving applications: 1 February 2010

Intimation to participants: 7 February 2010

Course Dates: 18-24 February 2010

Mailing Address:

Dr Saswat. S. Das, Coordinator

STC on Literary and Critical Theory
Dept. of HSS, Indian Institute of Technology,
Kharagpur-721302, West-Bengal, India.
Tel: 03222-283611 (O), 03222-283610 (Res.)
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Anindya Sekhar Purakayastha
Co-coordinator
anindyasp@gmail.com

Location: IIT Kharagpur is situated 116km away from Kolkata, and it is the oldest and the largest amongst all the IITs. Kharagpur is an important junction in the south Eastern Railways, and is well connected to all major cities in India. The IIT is about 5 km from Kharagpur railway station, and is accessible by rickshaws, autos, and taxis from the station.

Application Form:

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(18-24 February 2010)

1 Name: _____

2 Designation: _____

3 Name of the Institution/Universities: _____

4 Address for communication: _____

5 Highest academic qualification: _____

6 Phone No.: _____ (O) _____ (R)

7 Mobile No.: _____

8 Fax No.: _____

9 Email: _____

10 Details about the demand draft (applicable for non-AICTE Candidates only) :

Bank name, Draft number and Date	Amount (In Rupees)

Date:

Signature of Applicant

Approval for Candidates

We approve the above applicant as a candidate for the **Winter School on Critical Thinking, Reading & Writing Skills: Learning to Think, Read and Write the Modernist Way** at IIT Kharagpur.

Date:

Signature and Seal of
Approving/Sponsoring Authority