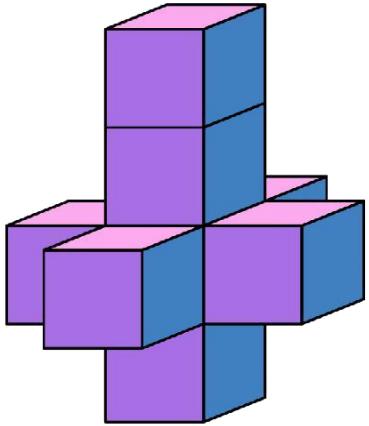




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November 3 - 9, 2016

### A Course on: The Literary Avant-Garde and Alternative Modernities



**Department of English & CLS**  
**Saurashtra University**  
**Kalawad Raod, Rajkot 360005**  
**Gujarat (India)**  
**[www.saurashtrauniversity.edu](http://www.saurashtrauniversity.edu)**

Registration Form

<https://sites.google.com/site/sugandoe/>

### Resource Persons

**Professor Alan Golding** earned his BA from the University of Exeter and his MA and PhD from the University of Chicago. He teaches American literature and poetry and poetics of the long twentieth century.



He is the author of \*From Outlaw to Classic: Canons in American Poetry\* (1995), and of numerous essays on modernist and contemporary poetry. Current projects include \*Writing the New Into History: New American Poetries from The Dial to the Digital\* and "Isn't the Avant-Garde Always Pedagogical," a book on experimental poetics and / as pedagogy. He co-edits the Iowa Series on Contemporary North American Poetry and Synapse, a series dedicated to experimental critical approaches to poetics. He began his teaching career in the University of Louisville, Kentucky, USA in 1987 where he is a full-time Professor since 1996.

**Professor Avadhesh Kumar Singh** is currently Professor of Translation Studies Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi. He is also Honorary Chair Professor, Comparative & Interdisciplinary Studies, Auro University. Earlier he was the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Ahmedabad (2006–2009). Thereafter, he was the founder Convenor, Knowledge Consortium of Gujarat, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar (Gujarat). He was also the founder Head, Department of English & Comparative Literary Studies, Saurashtra University, Rajkot (1989–2005). His books include (i) Indian Knowledge Systems 2 Vols. (with Kapil Kapoor) (2005), (ii) Ramayana through Ages (2007); (iii) Voices of Woman: Gargi to Gangasati (2008); (iv) Interventions: Critical and Literary Discourses (2009); and Towards Interdisciplinarity: (the) University, Social Sciences and Humanities (2010). Revisiting Literature, Criticism and Aesthetics in India (2012) is his latest book.



**Dr. Sanjay Mukherjee** is currently Associate Professor, Department of English & CLS, Saurashtra University, Rajkot, Gujarat, India. His doctoral research was in Cultural Criticism and Cultural Studies and his publications include

English Literature in the Romantic & Victorian Periods (1798-1914): Survey & Interpretation, 2006; and Critical Discourse and Colonialism (co-edited with A.K. Singh), 2005. He was awarded with the Dolarrai Mankad Best Researcher's Award, 2007, by the Saurashtra University, invited by the Centre for Women's and Gender Studies, University of British Columbia, Canada in 2008 and selected for the American SUSI Fellowship at the University of Louisville, USA in 2011. Dr. Mukherjee would coordinate this Course.

### Course Module

The Literary Avant-Garde  
Alternative Modernities:

Date : November 3 - 9, 2016

### Who can attend

Faculty of English Studies with an interest in 20th century literary-critical discourses

Faculty in the disciplines of the Humanities and the Arts interested in the Avant-Garde and Modernisms

Research scholars already working or willing to work in the near future in this area

Freelance scholars, independent journalists, and academic writers with an interest in this area

Postgraduate and M.Phil. students interested in this area, especially those who might like to venture out into research in this area

### Fees

Participants from abroad: US \$ 250

Indian Participants:

Faculty / Independent Scholars:

Rs. 5000/- with accommodation Rs. 3000/- without accommodation

Students (not earning) :

Rs. 2000/- with accommodation

Rs. 1000/- without accommodation

The fees would include all instructional materials, a working lunch and tea, and internet facility at the host institute during the course. The participants will have to take care of their travel, and dinner during the course. Those requiring accommodation are requested to inform the coordinator well in advance.

## Overview

A combination of lecture and workshop/discussion, this course on two complementary areas – the Avant-Garde and Modernism – would engage in the history, theory, and practice of these areas. As regards the avant-garde, the course would attempt to bring into discussion writings from the early twentieth century to the present. The title of David Antin's talk performance "What It Means to be Avant-Garde" could be taken as the governing rubric, allowing us to examine the nature and ambitions of avant-garde writing; what constitutes an avant-garde; the avant-garde and politics; the avant-garde and gender; questions of evaluation, reception, and institutionalization; the relationship of avant-garde writing to the academy; and whether "the avant-garde" is still a useful or viable concept. For the second half of the course, we will take as our central examples movements or tendencies in US American poetry from the post-World War II period: the Black Mountain school, the New York school, the Black Arts Movement, Language writing. However, we will begin with earlier European movements and their influence on later ideas of avant-gardism (Italian Futurism, Russian Futurism, Dada, Surrealism—the so-called "historical avant-garde"); and we

will read, selectively, major theorists of the avant-garde. While this is mainly a literature course, one function of the avant-garde has often been to redefine what we mean by "literature," so we will also bring into the discussion examples from the visual and plastic arts, theatre, music, dance, and digital media.

The associated terms 'modernity', 'modernization' and 'modernism' are often used synonymously. Europe, since the Renaissance became the fountain head of modernity that either erased, or at least relegated others into insignificance. The non-European societies were at best put in the categories of 'alternative' modernities. It is therefore necessary to revisit these categories and consider societies like India its literary and cultural traditions in the light of these categories from comparative perspective. The focus, among others, would be on the areas like: Defining Modernity; Modernity, Modernization and Modernism; Modernity as Renewal Mechanism; Modernity in Indian Epics, Classical Writings and Philosophical Schools. It is expected that this course would open up possibilities of new understanding in the complementary areas on the avant-garde and modernisms (from both the Western and Indian perspectives), areas that still hold a significant sway for an adequate grounding in twentieth-century literary

and critical-theoretical discourses.

The participants in this course are expected to attend at least 4 hours of rigorous contact sessions with the resource persons in the first five days of the course followed by evaluation sessions (through presentations, write-ups etc.) in the last two days. An emphasis of this course would be to expose the participants to avenues of research in this area and stimulate them to formulate some research proposals.

## About GIAN

Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) is a Govt. of India approved new program in higher education aimed at tapping the talent pool of scholars, scientists and entrepreneurs internationally to encourage their engagement with the institutes of higher education in India so as to augment the country's existing academic resources and accelerate the pace of quality reforms. Its primary objective is to increase the footfalls of reputed international faculty in the Indian academic institutes.

**For any queries about the course and related information, please contact:**

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**+91 9099939488**