

# Derrida’s Moderns: How to use Deconstruction in the context of Modernism

## Overview

The course is aimed at undergraduate and postgraduate students majoring in English, and other sub-disciplines in the humanities who are interested in developing a knowledge of literary theory. The main aim is to present the thought of Jacques Derrida in so far as it relates to literary studies. The course is divided into four classes of 3 hours plus three tutorials going back to material discussed the previous day. Each day will have specific theme blending theoretical statements and literary analyses so as to introduce the main concepts and methods of reading launched by French philosopher Jacques Derrida who died in 2004. Derrida has exerted a huge influence on literary criticism in the seventies and eighties, in the USA especially, but then there was a strong reaction against his theories in the nineties. Today, one witnesses a global return to his methods and to his mode of reading literature. The instructor will give examples of how Derrida, who always remained at the cusp between literature and philosophy, posed fundamental questions and changed the field of literary criticism, especially with regard to poetry, feminism, psychoanalytic studies, animal studies, digital humanities and post-colonial studies. This class will nevertheless remain easy to follow for students who have no knowledge of philosophy. The aim of the class is to link the theories of Jacques Derrida about literature with major modernist texts so as to introduce students to the practice and theories of what has been called deconstruction. This entails establishing a bridge between philosophy and literature with a specific aim: we will gain an original perspective on deconstruction studies in so far as it helps us read main modernist authors like Joyce or Beckett. The course is based upon two *collections that the instructor has edited*, *After Derrida*, for Cambridge University Press (2018) and *Understanding Derrida/Understanding Modernism* for Bloomsbury (2019).

<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Learn how to connect literature and philosophy;</li> <li>ii) Gain a better understanding of modernism;</li> <li>iii) Understand the basics of deconstruction;</li> <li>iv) Approach the field of modernism from the angle of continental philosophy;</li> <li>v) Master a more rigorous method of doing literary analysis.</li> </ul>
<b>Modules</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Derrida, from literature to war</li> <li>ii) Derrida and Psychoanalysis</li> <li>iii) Derrida on poetry</li> <li>iv) Derrida with Joyce and Beckett</li> <li>v) Tutorials</li> </ul>
<b>Who can attend?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Students in English literature.</li> <li>ii) Students in comparative literature, French and German.</li> <li>iii) Students of philosophy at all levels.</li> <li>iv) Academics from Humanities and Social Sciences</li> </ul>

<b>Fees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Students from abroad: USD 200</li> <li>ii) Students from India and South Asia: 2000 INR</li> <li>iii) Students from India belonging to the reservation category (SC/ST): 1000 INR [Note: Please send a soft copy of your community certificate]</li> <li>iv) There is no registration fee for IIT Gandhinagar students</li> </ul>
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## THE FACULTY

### INSTRUCTOR



**Jean-Michel Rabaté** is a Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Pennsylvania. One of the founders and curators of Slought Foundation in Philadelphia (slought.org), he is a managing editor of the *Journal of Modern Literature*. Since 2008, he has been a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Rabaté has authored or edited 40 books on modernism, psychoanalysis, contemporary art, philosophy, and writers like Beckett, Pound and Joyce. Recent books include *Lacan Literario* (2007), *1913: The Cradle of Modernism* (2007, Chinese translation 2013), *The Ethic of the Lie* (2008), *Etant donnés: 1) l'art, 2) le crime* (2010), *The Ghosts of Modernity* (2010, republished). In 2013, he has edited *A Handbook of Modernism Studies* and a new French translation of Joyce's *Exiles*. More recent titles include *Crimes of the Future* (2014), *The Cambridge Introduction to Literature and Psychoanalysis*, *The Pathos of Distance* (2016), *Think, Pig! Beckett at the limit of the human* (2016), *Les Guerres de Derrida* (2016), *Rust* (2018), *Kafka L.O.L.* (2018) and the collection *After Derrida* (2018). He was awarded the Lindback teaching award at the University of Pennsylvania in 2011, the English department undergraduate teaching award in 2010 and the College of Graduate Studies teaching award in 2008.

## HOST-FACULTY



**Arka Chattopadhyay** is Assistant Professor of Literary studies in the department of Humanities and Social Sciences at Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, India. He is a B.A., M.A., MPhil in English Literature, from Presidency College and Jadavpur University, India. He has written his MPHIL thesis on Samuel Beckett and Alain Badiou and finished his PHD from Western Sydney University on Beckett and Lacanian Psychoanalysis. Arka has been published in books like *Deleuze and Beckett* and journals like *Miranda*, *Textual Practice*, *Interventions*, *S*, *Samuel Beckett Today/Aujo urd'hui* and *Psychoanalysis, Culture and Society*. He has co-edited *Samuel Beckett and the Encounter of Philosophy and Literature*. Arka is the chief editor of the online literary journal *Sanglap* (<http://sanglap-journal.in/>). He has guest-edited the SBT/A issue on *Samuel Beckett and the Extensions of the Mind*. His first monograph, *Beckett, Lacan and the Mathematical Writing of the Real* has been published by Bloomsbury in 2018.

## Course Co-ordinator

**Prof. Arka Chattopadhyay**

Phone: 079 23952533

E-mail: arka.chattopadhyay@iitgn.ac.in

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