

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

Overview

The course, to be conducted in an **online** mode during **December 19-23 (18:30-21:30 IST) 2022**, is aimed at undergraduates majoring in English, and at students in the humanities who are interested 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).

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

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* has been republished in 2010. In 2013, he has edited *A Handbook of Modernism Studies* and a new French translation of Joyce's *Exiles*. 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).

HOST-FACULTY



Course Co-ordinator

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Arka Chattopadhyay is assistant professor, Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Gandhinagar, India. He has been published in books like *Deleuze and Beckett, Knots: Post-Lacanian Psychoanalysis, Literature and Film*, *Gerald Murnane: Another World in this One* etc., and journals such as *Textual Practice, Interventions, Samuel Beckett Today/Aujourd'hui, Psychoanalysis, Culture and Society, Sound Studies* and *The Harold Pinter Review*. He has co-edited *Samuel Beckett and the Encounter of Philosophy and Literature* (2013) and guest-edited the SBT/A issue *Samuel Beckett and the Extensions of the Mind*. (2017). Arka is the founding editor of *Sanglap* and a contributing editor to *Harold Pinter Review*. He is the author of *Beckett, Lacan and the Mathematical Writing of the Real* (Bloomsbury Academic UK, 2019). He has co-edited a volume on Nabarun Bhattacharya (Bloomsbury India, 2020) and is working on a monograph on *Posthumanism* (Orient Blackswan) and two edited volumes on *Affective Ecologies* and *Badiou and Modernism* (Orient Blackswan and Bloomsbury). He has recently been awarded the Charles Wallace India Trust Fellowship 2022-2023 at the University of Edinburgh.