

New Challenges in Critical Humanities: Religion, Politics, and the Earth

(February 20th – 25th, 2023)



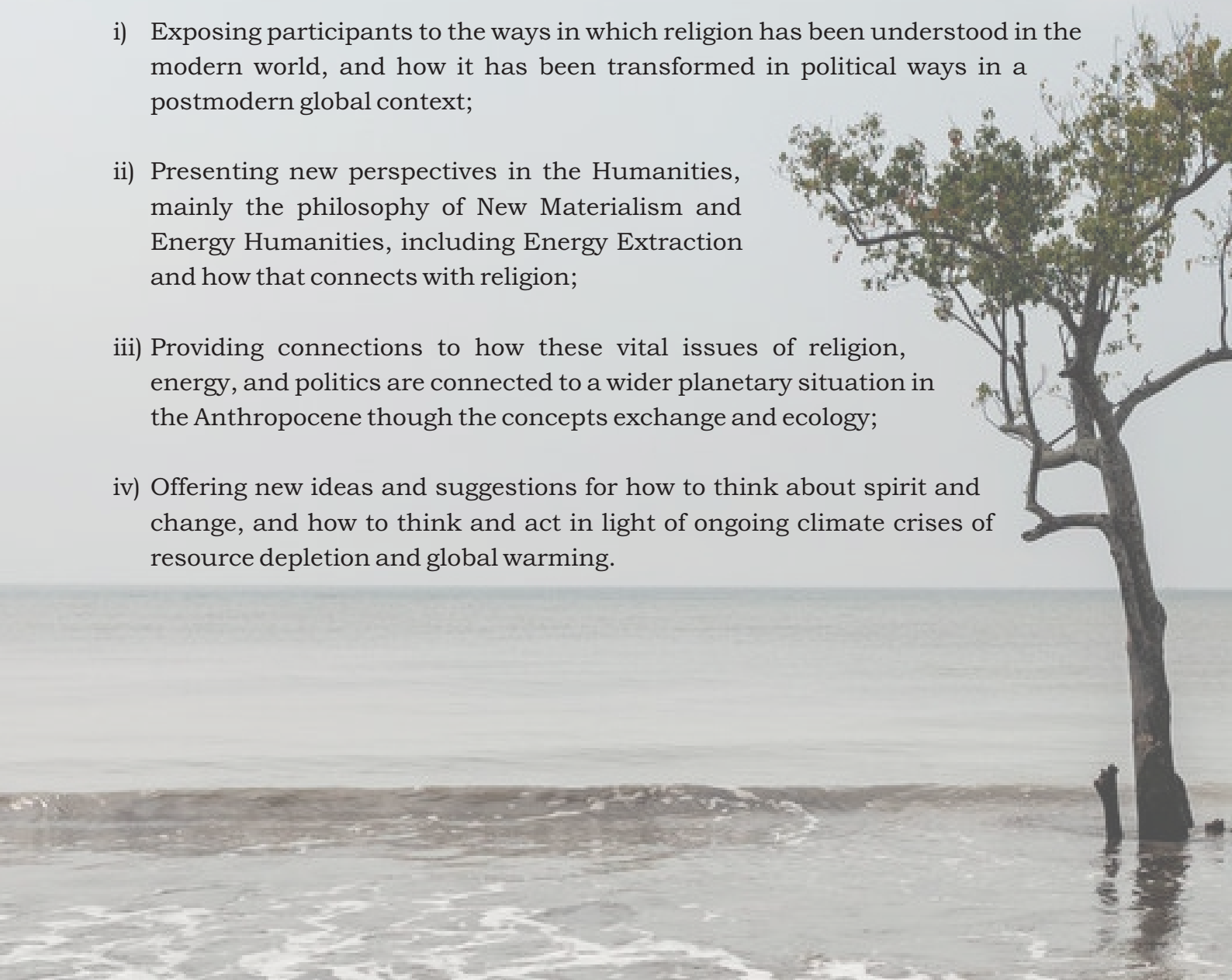
**Department of Humanities & Social Sciences
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur**

Overview

Religion is connected to all of the critical issues and problems that we face, including those of politics and environmental destruction, including global warming. This course examines the intersections among the three areas of religion, politics, and the planetary situation in the Anthropocene in a way that constructs a coherent picture of our contemporary world and the challenges for us to understand and intervene within it. The Humanities broadly speaking address the ways in which human activities must be theorized. This course will address the critical role of religion in the world today, and how it is caught up in the transition from modern liberalism to postmodern neoliberalism. We will see how religion is always implicated in political formations, as well as how modern politics has religious influences and effects. The interconnection and interaction between religion and politics must be set within a planetary context, because we are learning more and more about the human role and impact on the climate.

The primary objectives of the course are as follows:

- i) Exposing participants to the ways in which religion has been understood in the modern world, and how it has been transformed in political ways in a postmodern global context;
- ii) Presenting new perspectives in the Humanities, mainly the philosophy of New Materialism and Energy Humanities, including Energy Extraction and how that connects with religion;
- iii) Providing connections to how these vital issues of religion, energy, and politics are connected to a wider planetary situation in the Anthropocene through the concepts exchange and ecology;
- iv) Offering new ideas and suggestions for how to think about spirit and change, and how to think and act in light of ongoing climate crises of resource depletion and global warming.



Modules:

1st Module: New Materialism and Scientific Western Modernity

2nd Module: Religion and Radical Theology

3rd Module: Energy and Ecology

4th Module: Capitalism and Economy of Exchange

5th Module: Spirituality and Multinaturalism

6th Module: Materialism of Change: Religion, Politics and Earth

Timings:

Session A: 2 hours 30 minutes Lectures;

Time: 10:00 a.m to 12:30 p.m.

Session B: 2 hours Discussion/Tutorial

Time: 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm

You should attend if...

- you are a Masters student, research scholar or faculty of philosophy interested in areas of religion, politics, and ecology
- you are a Masters student, research scholar or faculty of Humanities and Social Science disciplines interested in areas of European Modernity, Energy Humanities, New Materialism.
- you are a Cognoscenti, Writer, Intellectual, Member of the Intelligentsia or some Industrial House interested in and likely to benefit from Critical Theory, Philosophy, Art and Literature, Politics, Socio-Cultural concerns or Interdisciplinary Mode of Research

Fees:

- Students & Research Scholars: Rs. 1500.
- Participants from abroad: US \$500
- Faculty & Academic Institutions: Rs. 3,000.
- Industry/ Research Organizations: Rs. 10,000.

The above fee includes all instructional materials, computer use for tutorials and assignments, 24 hr. free internet facility. The participants will be provided with accommodation in the hostel on payment basis, subject to availability.

Number of participants for the course will be limited to 30.

Please register in GIAN portal <https://gian.iitkgp.ac.in/ccourses/approvecourses3>

International Course Coordinator



Clayton Crockett is a Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion and the Director of the interdisciplinary Religious Studies program at the University of Central Arkansas, USA. He has authored or edited a number of books, including *Religion, Politics and the Earth*; *The Future of Continental Philosophy of Religion*, and most recently, *Derrida After the End of Writing*. He is a Distinguished Research Fellow for the Global Center for Advanced Studies, an online graduate school.

Invited Speakers



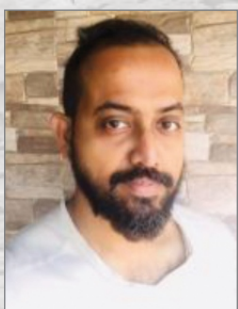
Jeffrey W. Robbins is Chair and Professor of Religion and Philosophy at Lebanon Valley College, where he also serves as the director of the American Studies program and the Undergraduate Research Symposium. Awarded the Thomas Rhys Vickroy Award for Outstanding Teaching at LVC in 2005, Robbins is the author or editor of eight books, most recently *Radical Theology: A Theological Method for Change*.



Saitya Brata Das is Associate Professor at the Centre for English Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. He is former Post-Doc Fellow at UFR Philosophie, Université de Marc Bloch (2006-7) and former Fellow at Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla (2009-2011). The areas of his interest include: philosophy of literature, political theology, German Idealism (Schelling), phenomenology of religion and Kierkegaard. He is the author of *The Political Theology of Schelling* (2016) and, *The Political Theology of Kierkegaard*.



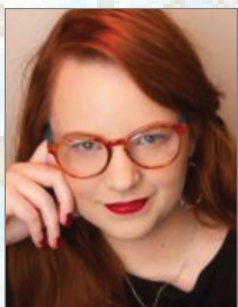
Ajay Gudavarthy is an Associate Professor at the Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. He currently teaches courses on Contemporary Critical Theory and Indian Politics. His key interests lie at the interface of political theory, and social and political developments in contemporary India. He was a visiting Professor at CeMIS, Goettingen University, and a Charles Wallace Fellow at SOAS. He is currently an Associate Fellow at the Institute for Humanities, Simon Fraser University.



Kalyan Kumar Das is Assistant professor at the Department of English, Presidency University in Kolkata. His present research work focuses on Indian philosophy, continental philosophy, the interactions between conservatism and liberalism, American pragmatist philosophy of John Dewey, philosophy of race, Dalit literature, philosophy of history and Ambedkar's political philosophy. He has presented his research works at the Center for Asia Research of York University in Toronto, Nottingham Trent University, University of Leicester, Ireland India Institute at the Dublin City University, British Center for Literary Translation at the University of East Anglia.



Ananya Roy Pratihara is an Assistant Professor in Communication Studies at the Institute of Management and Information Science, Bhubaneswar, India. She has jointly edited *Technology, Urban Space and Network Community* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022) and currently co-editing *Deleuze, Guattari and Schizoanalysis of the Global Pandemic: Revolutionary Praxis and Neoliberal Crisis* (Bloomsbury Academic Schizoanalytic Applications Series, forthcoming, 2023) She is also co-editing a special Issue for Deleuze and Guattari Studies (Edinburgh University Press) and a collection on *Deleuze, Guattari and the Schizoanalysis of Post-Neoliberalism* (Bloomsbury 2023). Her research interests include Decolonial Studies, Deleuze studies, Film Studies, Eco-humanism and Cultural Studies.



Stephanie Gray (they/them) is a Research Fellow working on their PhD in Critical Theory at the Global Centre for Advanced Studies. Their research focus is on radical queer, crip, and Jewish temporalities. They have been working for over a decade in grassroots organizing and political education.

Local Course Coordinator



Saswat Samay Das is an Associate Professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India. His research interests are Postcolonial and Postmodern Studies, Continental Thinking, Deleuze Studies, Political Activism, Social Movement, Critical Theory, Radical Neo-Marxism. He has co-authored *Taking place of Language*, Peter-Lang Oxford, (2013). He has co-edited *Technology, Urban Space and the Networked Community* (Palgrave Macmillan 2022), *Deleuze and the Global Terror*, (Edinburgh University Press, December 2022) *Deleuze, Guattari and Schizoanalysis of the Global Pandemic: Revolutionary Praxis and Neoliberal Crisis* (Bloomsbury Academic, Schizoanalytic Applications Series, forthcoming, 2023). He is currently editing a special Issue for Deleuze and Guattari Studies (Edinburgh University Press) and a book on *Deleuze, Guattari and the Schizoanalysis of Post-Neoliberalism* (Bloomsbury 2023). He has published in well-known international journals such as *Philosophy in Review*, *Deleuze Studies*, *Cultural politics*, *Contemporary South Asia* and *EPW*.

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