

St. Joseph's College of Commerce

(Autonomous)

#163, Brigade Road, Bangalore - 560025



Department of English

B.Com General English

Sem III

Academic Year 2024-25

B.Com General English - Semester III

Contemporary Debates I: Society, Language, & Culture

Course Description: This course is designed to engage students in debates on society, language, and culture in the Indian context. Through extended discussions and close reading of a wide variety of texts, themes such as nation, nationalism, modernity, multilingualism, culture, caste, gender, and sexuality will be investigated. Students will be required to respond to themes and issues in the form of personal narratives, critical essays, and presentations.

Course Objectives

The course aims to help the students to:

- understand the impact of socio-political and cultural constructs in India and look at how they result in the formation of stereotypes
- follow the contemporary debates and ask significant questions
- understand the connection between facts, history, and experiences
- create coherent and logical arguments based on evidence
- use literary imagination to respond to issues arising from diverse Indian cultural spheres

Course Outcomes

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to,

- demonstrate an understanding of diverse socio-cultural constructs
- construct evidence-based arguments
- frame questions on issues that are part of the contemporary socio-political and cultural debates
- apply literary imagination and creatively respond to issues

Module 1: Idea of the Nation

15 hrs

1. Ideas of India by Sunil Khilnani
2. Kabuliwala - Tagore

Module 2: Caste, Gender, and Society**15 hrs**

3. Pan on Fire - Sumithra Bhave
4. Annihilation of Caste - B R Ambedkar
5. Fandry (Film Text) - Nagaraj Manjule
6. I am Vidya: A Transgender's Journey - Living Smile Vidya

Module 3: Debates on language**15 hrs**

7. The Kannada-English Combat - D R Nagaraj
8. The Mother Tongue Day - Sugata Srinivasaraju
9. Selections from Wild Words - Poems by Sukeirtharani (Translating her)

Recommended Readings and Viewings

1. The Downtrodden Among the Downtrodden: An Interview with a Dalit Agricultural Labourer - Gail Omvedt
2. Mother (Aye) from Motherwit - Urmila Pawar
3. Whose Imagined Communities - Partha Chatterjee
4. Introduction of Caste and Gender - Anupama Rao
5. Tip - Du Saraswati
6. Nationalism - Rabindranath Tagore
7. Fandry -Nagaraj Manjule
8. India Untouched - K Stalin
9. EPW Edition on Intersections of Gender and Caste