

## AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY DELHI

### LIST OF FOUNDATION AND SPECIAL INTEREST COURSES WINTER SEMESTER 2012-2013

#### II Semester

##### 1. Course Title: English Proficiency Course 2 (EPC2)

**Course Team:** Ms Nupur Samuel (Co-ordinator, [nupur@aud.ac.in](mailto:nupur@aud.ac.in)), Dr Murali Krishna, Ms Juhi Rituparna

This is a compulsory foundation course and is mandatory for all the undergraduate students who have either not registered or have not successfully completed this course in their first semester.

This course aims to enhance the students' ability to read and respond to specialized (subject/discipline-based) materials in English in written and oral form across different disciplines. They will also gain greater proficiency in speaking and listening on higher level skills such as academic discussions, debates, and paper presentations. More specifically the course will enable students to read different types of texts (narrative, descriptive, expository, argumentative) in articles, reports, etc. and understand, infer, analyze, and evaluate ideas /meanings from the contexts; and write clear, coherent texts (short articles, reports, descriptions, reviews, summaries etc.) on academic topics.

##### 2. Course Title: Logic and reasoning (LR)

**Course Coordinator:** Dr. Ramneek Khassa ([ramneek@aud.ac.in](mailto:ramneek@aud.ac.in))

**Pre-Requisites:** Mathematics up to X grade level

##### **Description:**

This is a compulsory foundation course and is mandatory for all the undergraduate students who have either not registered or have not successfully completed this course in their first semester.

The topics included in this course will directly and indirectly emphasise logical thinking, reasoning and analysis. These are basic skills that are required by all students. The aim of the course is to offer a gentle introduction to very basic concepts of sets and logic, to develop a familiarity with simple techniques for quantifying and analysing data including a capacity to use simple computer worksheet programmes for the same, to develop an appreciation of mathematics in nature via discussions on symmetry and

perspective in art, to apply the reasoning and data analysis in various disciplines like economics, history and psychology.

**3. Course Title:** Introduction to Social Sciences (ISS)

**Course Coordinator:** Professor Denys Leighton ([denys@aud.ac.in](mailto:denys@aud.ac.in))

Course team members/tutorial leaders: to be announced.

Mode of transaction: Lectures (3 hours/week) + tutorial/discussion meetings (2 hours/week).

**Description:**

This is a compulsory foundation course and is mandatory for all the undergraduate students who have either not registered or have not successfully completed this course in their first semester.

This course is taught by a team of teachers who do social science research. Its broadest purpose is to orient students towards social scientific investigation by giving them exposure to the work, and especially the methods, of social scientists. The course draws upon a wide range of reading and resource materials and employs various teaching and learning strategies. Students attend lectures but are assigned to small tutorial groups for discussion of course materials and some kinds of project work.

*Learning objectives of the course:* to demonstrate understanding of some major positions in the theory and philosophy of the social sciences over the past two hundred years; to appreciate the various relationships between 'theoretical' and 'empirical' pursuits in the social sciences; to acquire skills in reading carefully and critically texts that have shaped practice of and debates in the social sciences; to acquire competence in making and analyzing arguments about the social sciences; to develop an ability to present, in both oral and written form, materials in this field to an interested audience.

Assessment is based on written submissions (40%) and in-class tests (25% and 35% of course grade). Students are expected to participate fully in the tutorial sessions (2 hours/week), where attendance is compulsory. Their work shall be assessed by the tutorial leaders in consultation with the course co-ordinator. Some films may be screened during regular class meetings and in the late afternoons.

**3. Course Title:** Nature of Science (NOS)

**Course Coordinator:** Dr Abhijeet Bardapurkar ([abhijeet@aud.ac.in](mailto:abhijeet@aud.ac.in))

**Description:**

This team-taught course is a 4-credit Optional Foundation (elective) course open to any SUS student. There are no prerequisites.

We often claim to have a scientific understanding of the natural world, knowledge about various natural processes and entities that we experience and postulate. How has this kind of knowledge developed over time? How is this scientific way of knowing different from others? What is the relationship between scientific theory and reality? What is the relationship between science and other human endeavors, and between scientific facts and human *values*? Is the *success* of science in predicting and controlling nature clear 'proof' of its *truth*? Is science successful because it uses a certain method of knowledge generation? Or is science's success better understood in terms of social processes and practices cultivated by communities during the development of scientific ideas and ideals? Why should students of humanities and social sciences learn about 'science'? This course is an opportunity to introduce ourselves to these questions and to begin appreciating their meaning.

Assessment is continuous and involves 3 or 4 separate assignments: these will include written class tests, class presentations and short project-studies.

**4. Course Title: EN02: Introduction to Indian and World Literatures (IIWL)**

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of English Proficiency Course 1. All English Majors in Semester II are advised to pick either this course or Literatures of the Renaissance. This course is open to students of all other BA Major programmes.

**Course Team:** Dr Usha Mudiganti (Co-ordinator, usha@aud.ac.in), Ms Bhoomika Meiling

This is an optional discipline/ foundation course open to all students.

This course is geared towards adding to the students' understanding of the day-to-day realities they inhabit and the differences that define their lives by introducing them to varied literary trends from across the world. It also seeks to sensitize them to the socio-political-cultural contexts and geographical and temporal locations that shape literatures of particular regions, ethnicities and societies. Some of the themes covered in the course will be: race, gender, caste, class, sexuality, disability, exile, war, marginality, environment, nationalism, diaspora, conflict, orality, dissent, protest, bondage, love, migration and displacement, identity, multiculturalism.

**5. Course Title:** M02: Quantitative Methods (QM)  
**Course Coordinator:** Ms Divya Bhambri (divya@aud.ac.in)  
**Pre-Requisites:** Mathematics up to X grade level

**Description**

This is an optional discipline/ foundation course open to all students. This course will provide a set of quantitative tools that will be of use to the student irrespective of the discipline they pursue. The topics included will enhance quantitative and analytical skills. The topics for the course have been chosen keeping in mind the requirements for quantitative skills in social sciences and humanities. The topics covered include functions and graphs, linear equations and matrices, data analysis of bivariate data.

**6. Course title: *Bharatiya aur Vishwa Sahitya (BAVS)***

**Course co-ordinator: Satyaketu Sankrit** (satyaketu@aud.ac.in)

**Description:**

This is a Foundation/ Discipline course and is an optional course open to all students. This course introduces students to Indian and world literature through a wide selection of texts in Hindi. It acquaints students with different literatures and the worlds they represent through the genres of drama, autobiography, the short story and poetry. Representative texts included the satirical play *Andher Nagari* (Bharatendu Harishchandra); the famous Dalit autobiography *Akkarmashi* by Sharan Kumar Limbale, and short stories and poems originally written in Malayalam, Bangla, Urdu and other Indian languages. The course also features works translated into Hindi from Russian, Spanish and Chinese.

## **VI Semester**

**1. Course title: *Digital Storytelling from the Field* [DS] -- 4 credits**

**Course co-ordinator: Surajit Sarkar** ([surajit.cck@aud.ac.in](mailto:surajit.cck@aud.ac.in))

**Pre-Requisites:**

Applicants must be familiar with Multimedia computer use. Knowledge of audio-visual editing programs desirable.

The course will bring the word-of-mouth to life, by being open-ended, content-led approach to documentation, where filming forms part of the research process rather than taking place at the end of a research period. It is in part storytelling workshop, part audio-visual training, as well as an introduction to social science research. The course will explore the use of observational/ ethnographic camera images, and associated editing techniques to facilitate another way of knowing. Course work will be a mix of classroom sessions, with three projects that explore cases. Students will use digital images and video to explore a research topic, and produce edited compilations to communicate understandings of it. The course will help students to learn to listen, record and tell stories from memories and recollections of personal experience and shared life histories. Assessment will have audio-visual and written components. The quality of the audio-visual story telling will be rated in the classroom by peers and instructors. In addition, a written report on the process leading to the final film will be evaluated, that will address theoretical issues, technical challenges and the documentation log. The course is located in the disciplinary area of Visual Anthropology.

## **2. Course title: *Understanding Disability through Media Representations***

**Course coordinator: Dr. Rachana Johri (Rachana@aud.ac.in)**

**Course instructors: Dr. Anita Ghai and Dr. Rachana Johri**

**This is a Special Interest Course which is open to all VI semester students.**

From *Dosti* and *Rain Man*, to *Black*, *Million Dollar Bab*, *Iqbal* and *Guzarish*, cinema has played a major role in the current hype-visibility of disability. Media, keen to acquire a socially responsible front, rely on evoking emotional reactions such as pity, horror, or a sense of tragedy. All that is needed to do this is a fleeting moment where a 'crippled' beggar is shown extending his/her begging bowl into the window of a car, or the good-hearted protagonist is shown helping a visually impaired person cross the busy city road and receiving heartfelt blessings for it. The "images" of disability represented by media are deep-rooted in culture and reflective of the way in which society understands disability. In fact Indian and other societies have become somewhat dependent on cinematic representations to inform them about the situation of the disabled. However the representations rarely reflect the actual relations between disabled and "normal" people. Disabled people seem sometimes to be just like us

with no special needs and at others so different that they are best forgotten. The disabled individual is effectively transformed into an object of cultural appeal, a fragment of humanity and an object of negativity and mockery. Through a focus on the representations of disability in media, the workshop based special interest course will help us to a) relate to the experiential worlds of people with a range of disabilities; b) critically evaluate the stereotypes in these representations; and c) think about issues and themes critical to disability studies through these representations. The engagement with media, the personal responses evoked to these representations and the reading of a few key texts will provide students with the insights required to rethink disability. The course will be of interest to students of sociology or literature as well as those who wish to specialize in clinical and counselling psychology, gender studies and education. Assessments will include group presentations, written submissions and oral examinations.