



TRAUMA AND LITERATURE

PROF. AVISHEK PARUI

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

IIT Madras

PRE-REQUISITES : BA in English Literature or Cultural Studies

INTENDED AUDIENCE : MA/PhD students and Faculty

COURSE OUTLINE :

This course seeks to engage with the diverse ways in which literary texts have responded to traumatic and critical events in private and public history. The cultural and psychological impact of trauma in literature and society will be examined in detail through a close reading of selected texts from different literary periods, genres and traditions. Through a discussion of a range of texts, the course will map emergent critical theories in the field of trauma studies and memory studies. Exploring the relationship between trauma, memory and history, the course will also showcase the many possibilities of generating alternate histories through the re-telling of events.

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :

Dr Avishek Parui is Assistant Professor in English at IIT Madras and Associate Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy. He researches and supervises PhDs on medical humanities, masculinity studies, memory studies and postmodernism. His recent book *Postmodern Literatures*, has been published by Orient Blackswan.

COURSE PLAN :

- Week 1:** Toba Tek Singh ,Cold Meat
- Week 2:** The Other Side of Silence
- Week 3:** The Fly
- Week 4:** Mrs. Dalloway
- Week 5:** The New Wounded
- Week 6:** The Ontology of the Accident
- Week 7:** Catch-22
- Week 8:** Slaughterhouse-Five
- Week 9:** Trauma Fiction
- Week 10:** Unclaimed Experience: Trauma, Narrative, and History
- Week 11:** Beloved
- Week 12:** Nervous Conditions