

	MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY Kottayam, Kerala Undergraduate Programmes (HONOURS) 2025 Admission Onwards
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SYLLABUS			
SIGNATURE COURSE			
Name of the College	Rajagiri College of Management & Applied Sciences, Kakkanadu		
Faculty/ Discipline	English		
Programme	BA (Hons) English		
Course Coordinator	Sai Parvathy I.R		
Contributors	Ms.Geethu Johny		
Course Name	Echoes Across Borders: Graphic Narratives and Refugee Trauma		
Type of Course	VAC		
Specialization title	This Signature Course does not have a specialization.		
Course Code	MG4VACENGA03		
Course Level	200		
Course Summary	This course explores refugee trauma through graphic narratives, integrating trauma theory, visual culture, and socio-political frameworks. It enables students to critically engage with representations of displacement, memory, identity, and war through interdisciplinary approaches.		
Semester	4	Credits	3
Course Details	Learning Approach		Total Hours
	Credits	3	45
Pre-requisites, if any			

Course Outcomes (CO)

Number of COs		4	
CO No.	Expected Course Outcome	Learning Domains *	PO No
1	Understand and critically analyse key concepts in trauma studies and refugee experiences, drawing on psychoanalytic and socio-political frameworks.	U	PO1, PO6
2	Examine the politics of displacement, statelessness, and identity crisis through interdisciplinary lenses including biopolitics and memory studies.	E	PO3, PO6
3	Interpret graphic narratives using visual literacy frameworks, analysing how words and images together construct meaning in traumatic contexts.	An	PO1, PO3, PO4
4	Critically evaluate themes of identity, memory, resilience, and intergenerational trauma through close reading of prescribed refugee graphic memoirs.	C	PO1, PO4, PO6

*Remember (K), Understand (U), Apply (A), Analyse (An), Evaluate (E), Create (C), Skill (S), Interest (I) and Appreciation (Ap)

CO-PO Articulation Matrix

CO/PO	PO 1	PO 2	PO 3	PO 4	PO 5	PO 6	PO 7	PO 8	PO 9	PO 10
CO 1	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
CO 2	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
CO 3	2	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
CO 4	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-

'0' is No Correlation, '1' is Slight Correlation (Low level), '2' is Moderate Correlation (Medium level) and '3' is Substantial Correlation (High level).

Course Content

Content for Classroom transaction (Units)

Module	Units	Course Description	Hrs	CO No.
1	Introduction to Trauma Studies in Literature			
	1.1	Introduction to Trauma Studies: Emergence in literary and psychoanalytic traditions	2	["1"]
	1.2	Freud's Definition of Trauma: Nachträglichkeit, repetition compulsion, and the unconscious	3	["1"]
	1.3	Principles, Elements and Types of Trauma: Simple, complex, collective, intergenerational	3	["1"]
	1.4	Domains, Causes and Features of Trauma: Psychological, social, and cultural dimensions	3	["1"]
	1.5	Holocaust and War Trauma: Historical trauma, testimony, and the ethics of representation	4	["1"]
2	Refugeeism and Politics of Displacement			
	2.1	Concept of Refugee and Migration: Definitional distinctions (UNHCR, IOM, 1951 Convention)	2	["2"]
	2.2	Statelessness and Borders: Legal voids, territorial sovereignty, and human rights	2	["2"]
	2.3	Refugee Camps and Biopolitics: Agamben's bare life; spaces of exception and managed existence	3	["2"]
	2.4	Refugee Camps and Biopolitics: Agamben's bare life; spaces of exception and managed existence	3	["2", "4"]
	2.5	Global Refugee Policies and UNHCR Frameworks: Rights-based approaches, protection gaps	2	["2"]
3	Life Writing as Graphic Narrative			
	3.1	Introduction to Graphic Narratives: What are graphic novels? Why this medium for trauma?	2	["3"]
	3.2	Features, Elements, and Types of Graphic Narratives: Panel, gutter, text-image interplay	3	["3"]
	3.3	Visual Storytelling Techniques: Scott McCloud's vocabulary — closure, motion, time	2	["3"]
	3.4	Trauma, Memory, and Visual Representation: Silence, fragmentation, and symbolic imagery (Hillary Chute)	2	["3", "4"]
	3.5	Prescribed Text I — The Best We Could Do (Thi Bui): War, displacement, motherhood, intergenerational trauma	2	["3", "4"]
	3.6	Prescribed Text II — When Stars Are Scattered (Jamieson & Mohamed): Childhood, survival, refugee camps, identity	2	["3", "4"]
	3.7	Comparative Thematic Analysis: Resilience, memory reconstruction, and visual narrative strategies across both texts	2	["4"]

Teaching and Learning Approach	Classroom Procedure (Mode of transaction) The course adopts a multi-modal pedagogical approach combining lecture-based discussions, visual analysis of panels, student seminars and oral presentations, peer-led close reading sessions, and reflective writing assignments. Students are encouraged to engage collaboratively with both theoretical readings and visual texts, fostering critical literacy alongside empathetic understanding of displaced communities.
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Assessment Types	MODE OF ASSESSMENT Mode of Assessment: Theory
	A. Continuous Comprehensive Assessment (CCA) • Theory - 25 Marks Quiz,,Case Study, Survey
	B. End Semester Evaluation (ESE) • Theory - 50 Marks Assessment Methods - Written examination Duration of Examination - 1.50 Hrs Pattern of examination for Theory - Non-MCQ Different parts of written examination - Part - A , B , C , D , E Answer Type: ◦ PART - A ◦ MCQ - (5 out of 5) - $5 \times 1 = 5$ ◦ PART - B ◦ One Sentence - (10 out of 12) - $10 \times 1 = 10$ ◦ PART - C ◦ Short answer - (5 out of 8) - $5 \times 2 = 10$ ◦ PART - D ◦ Short Essays - (2 out of 4) - $2 \times 5 = 10$ ◦ PART - E ◦ Essays - (1 out of 2) - $1 \times 15 = 15$

References

- 1 Thi Bui — The Best We Could Do (Abrams ComicArts, 2017) 2 Victoria Jamieson & Omar Mohamed — When Stars Are Scattered (Dial Books, 2020)

Suggested Readings

- Caruth, Cathy. Unclaimed Experience: Trauma, Narrative, and History Johns Hopkins UP,1996. Herman, Judith. Trauma and Recovery: The Aftermath of Violence. Basic Books, 1992. LaCapra, Dominick. Writing History, Writing Trauma. Johns Hopkins UP, 2001. McCloud, Scott. Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art. Harper Perennial, 1994. Chute, Hillary. Graphic Women: Life Narrative and Contemporary Comics. Columbia UP, 2010. Agamben, Giorgio. Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life. Stanford UP, 1998. Spiegelman, Art. Maus: A Survivor's Tale. Pantheon Books, 1991.

Affidavit

- We, Rajagiri College of Management & Applied Sciences, Kakkanadu and Sai Parvathy I.R, retain the copyright of this syllabus and expressly prohibit its distribution in complete form to any institution outside our own.
- We, Rajagiri College of Management & Applied Sciences, Kakkanadu, agree to appoint a new course coordinator for the proposed Echoes Across Borders: Graphic Narratives and Refugee Trauma in the event of the unavailability of the currently nominated coordinator. This appointment will ensure the continued coordination of course delivery, assessments, and all related academic responsibilities necessary for the successful implementation of the signature course, for as long as the college offers this programme.

- We, Rajagiri College of Management & Applied Sciences, Kakkanadu and Sai Parvathy I.R, declare that no part of this signature course submitted here for approval has been taken from the course content developed by, or from any of the course titles prepared by, the BoS/expert committee in the same discipline under our University.

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