

COURSE CODE: 60140

DSE 8: TRAVEL WRITING

CREDITS ASSIGNED: 6 CREDITS

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Travel writing is an important field of study nowadays. It is concerned with writings of travellers as they document the ways of a foreign culture, which might be ethnocentric in assumption, or some form of reverse ethnocentrism might be at work as well. The objective of this course is to read travellers' accounts of places from the past to the present. It encompasses writings of eminent travel writers from the medieval period to the present. The course will attempt to underscore the problematic associated with the genre, such as, the claims to authenticity of the narrativised events, the role of imagination, the ethnocentric gaze, the element of wonder, and so forth.

UNIT I

a). Ibn Batuta: 'The Court of Muhammad bin Tughlaq', Khushwant Singh's City Improbable: Writings on Delhi, Penguin Publisher b). Al Biruni: Chapter LXIII, LXIV, LXV, LXVI, in India by Al Biruni, edited by Qeyamuddin Ahmad, National Book Trust of India

UNIT II

a). Mark Twain: The Innocent Abroad (Chapter VII , VIII and IX) (Wordsworth Classic Edition) b). Ernesto Che Guevara: The Motorcycle Diaries: A Journey around South America (the Expert, Home land for victor, The city of viceroys), Harper Perennial

UNIT III

a). William Dalrymple: City of Dijn (Prologue, Chapters I and II) Penguin Books b). Rahul Sankrityayan: From Volga to Ganga (Translation by Victor Kierman) (Section I to Section II) Pilgrims Publishing

UNIT IV

a). Nahid Gandhi: Alternative Realities: Love in the Lives of Muslim Women, Chapter 'Love, War and Widow', Westland, 2013 b). Elisabeth Bumiller: May You be the Mother of a Hundred Sons: a Journey among the Women of India, Chapters 2 and 3, pp.24-74 (New York: Penguin Books, 1991)

SUGGESTED TOPICS AND READINGS FOR CLASS PRESENTATION TOPICS

Travel Writing and Ethnography

Gender and Travel

Globalization and Travel

Travel and Religion

Orientalism and Travel