Post Graduate Courses *

**LA6010: Qualitative Research Methods**
Introduction: Theoretical and philosophical premises of qualitative methodologies; Difference between quantitative and qualitative methodologies; New paradigms in psychological theory (e.g. deconstruction) Qualitative methods of data collection: Ethnography; fieldwork; field notes; Participant and non-participant observation; Interviews (semi-structured and unstructured) and focus group discussions; Participatory research methods and action research (from the discipline of social work). Qualitative methods of data analysis: Thematic analysis, Narrative analysis, Grounded theory technique, Discourse analysis, Quantifying qualitative data. Applying qualitative methods: Determining when, why, for what, and how to use qualitative methods, Mixing qualitative and quantitative methods – triangulation and mixed methods research.

**LA6020: International Finance**
The goal of this course is to introduce students to major issues in international finance and provide an analytical framework for addressing those issues. The course mainly focuses on the issues related to exchange rate policies, trade integration, capital flows, global imbalances and financial crisis. At the end of the course, students will be able to address the issues in international finance from a research perspective. Exchange determination and policies, Issues related to the Central bank intervention, Trade policies and trade integration, Issues related to international capital flows, Global imbalances, Financial crises and policy responses.

**LA6030: Literary and Critical Theory**
This course examines complex aspects of contemporary literary criticism and theory. Readings include key texts of literary theory from Marxism, Feminism and Psychoanalysis, Post-structuralism, Deconstruction and Postmodernism, and Cultural Studies and Postcolonial studies. While this course analyzes the various modes of interaction between literature, culture, and society, it also provides a basic understanding of concepts, techniques, and vocabularies used in contemporary literary analysis.

**LA6040: Theories on Culture**
The course looks at theories on culture spanning from the 19th century to the contemporary times. Different schools of thought from subaltern studies and post-colonial theory will be introduced. The major discourses from Indian and Western thought will be introduced to the student with the expectation that s/he comes up with his or her own analysis. Western and oriental theories and their major critical trajectories are the main focus. The theory and philosophy of Stuart Hall, Patricia Hill Collins, Partha Chatterjee and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak will be elaborated on to provide a strong foundation in cultural theory for students of humanities and culture studies.

**LA6050: Contemporary India**
Agrarian issues; industrial labour; urbanization; transnational migration; globalization; environment and development; caste as a system and ideology; relationship between caste and class; the middle classes and consumption; media depictions; gender identities; education and employment; inequalities in access to resources. The course material will consist of chapters in
edited volumes, ethnographies, and journal articles. Audiovisual resources will also be used in teaching.

**LA6060: Medical Anthropology**
Topics covered will include medical pluralism, increasing medicalization of human bodies and health conditions, impact of gender on health, and new medical technologies. Students will be assessed on written essays and a brief fieldwork project on a health topic, in consultation with the faculty.

**LA6070: Critical Psychology**
What is critical psychology? History of psychological thought (positivist and post-positivist); Limitations of mainstream psychology research and theory; New paradigms in psychology from critical perspectives; Critical studies in health, illness, emotion, and identity; Case studies of contemporary critical research in psychology; Importance of doing socially relevant research in the Indian context.

**LA6080: Introduction to Positive Psychology**
Positive Psychology is a relatively new approach that focuses on positive psychological aspects as opposed to the clinical/psychopathological perspective of traditional psychology. This course will provide an outline to the basic concepts of positive psychology emphasizing specifically on happiness and strengths. The focus will primarily be on one’s understanding of happiness and journey towards it. Answers to the questions raised, will be discovered through an integration of theory and research findings in the area. Relevant concepts will be introduced and their relation to happiness will be examined. These include character strengths and virtues, post traumatic growth, resilience, and positive relationships. Strategies in achieving a state of subjective well-being and meaningful life would be explored.

**LA6090: Special Topics in Economic Research**
This course provides an overview of frontier research and recent policy developments in economics. This course will be taught through a mixture of lectures by the instructor and series of presentation by MPhil students. The course will be essential for a research scholar in economics to integrate their research topics with current issues that global economy facing.

**LA6100: Modernism**
This course provides an overview of Modernism— provisionally defined as art produced between 1900 and 1945— through canonical British and American literary texts. Since developments in the visual arts were particularly influential in the evolution of literary Modernism, we will also periodically examine Modernist art— principally painting and sculpture— in order to understand wider aesthetic tendencies. Through close readings of important prose, verse, and visual texts of the period, we will ask ourselves: What is Modernism? How is Modernism in the arts and literature related to dominant historical, philosophical, political, and cultural trends in the first half of the twentieth century? In what ways do Modernist texts reimagine the act of reading? How is Modernism related to preceding movements like Romanticism and to Postmodern literature and art?
LA6110: Information Technology & Development: Contemporary Debates & Praxis
Information and Communications Technology for Development is a growing area of research and community of scholars studying the role of technology in international development. Students in this course will study contemporary debates, issues and field projects that engage with information and communication technologies [ICTs] in the service of socio-economic progress and human development. This means a range of things: it could refer to the scope of technology in alleviating poverty, in impacting low-resource settings, in designing and engineering relevant technologies to close digital literacy gaps in specific populations.

LA6120: The Sociology of Digital Media: A Global Perspective
New Media technologies are products of the digital revolution and are rapidly transforming the ‘everyday’ life of societies and individuals. These have enabled new channels of information, social networking, and commerce and more importantly, the creation of a virtual life. This course focuses on the sociology of new media technologies, with a specific aim to anchor them within select theoretical debates and in specific geographic contexts. The course is intended to contribute to an understanding of impacts on individual and society through the use of new digital media tools for example the internet, social media, mobile phone technologies and devices. Many of the case studies, supporting theory, will center on people in cross-cultural, resource-poor and emerging market settings, for example, developing countries, the urban slum etc

LA5010: Macroeconomics

LA 6015: Independent Project
Students who wish to conduct an independent research in their area of interest may register for this course. Independent Project should be completed under the guidance of a faculty member. The aim of this course is to provide students with an opportunity to explore their research interests and to learn how to design and conduct an independent study. Evaluation will be based on presentation and submission of a written report. The student must get the concerned faculty member’s consent before registering for this course and complete it with three contact hours per week.

LA XXXxxx: Free Elective
The student may opt for an elective course from any other department in IITH.

LA 6200: Advanced Econometrics
Review of basic econometrics, Pooling cross section and time series data or Longitudinal model, Fixed and Random effect model, Dynamic panel data model, Binary response models: Logit, Probit and Tobit, Stochastic production frontier model, Quantile Regression, ARIMA model, VAR and Cointegration models, ARDL model, ARCH and GARCH model.
LA6210: Advanced Macroeconomics
The aim of this course is to provide an in-depth understanding of modern macroeconomic theory with empirical support. The course discusses various macroeconomic models such as the Solow growth model, infinite-horizon and overlapping-generations models, new growth theory, microeconomic foundations of incomplete nominal adjustment, inflation and monetary policy, budget deficits and fiscal policy.

LA6220: Culture and Mental Health
This course is an advanced level course that deals with the interface of culture and psychology in everyday life, focusing in particular on the area of mental health. The aim of this course is to emphasize that mental health and illness can never be studied solely in abstraction but have to be understood in relation to sociocultural contexts. Thus, even something as personal and private as the ‘self’ is located in a web of social reality. Readings will include contemporary research in transcultural psychiatry, cross-cultural psychology, and cultural psychology. The focus will be on understanding the cultural variations in manifestations of mental illness, with specific emphasis on South Asia in general and India in particular. Illustrations will be taken from studies of healing systems across cultures. Finally, students will learn about the skills in cultural sensitivity in practice.

LA6230: American Fiction after 1945
This course brings together select works of American fiction from the post-World War II era to the present times. It traces the changing sensibility and formal development of the American novel through the last seven decades while taking into account the historical and socio-cultural factors that have shaped contemporary American writing. Students are expected to close read select texts while using critical theoretical concepts associated with race, gender, subjectivity, textuality, sexuality, narratology, ecology, history and culture.

LA6240: Sociology of Globalization
The objective of this course is to provide students with a sociological perspective on the set of processes commonly referred to as ‘globalization’. It will look at the ways in which social and cultural factors affect attitudes to family and kinship, education, employment, labour practices, migration, media images, and gender ideologies. Through in depth study of ethnographies from different parts of the world, the course aims to educate students on the effect of globalization processes in people’s daily lives.

LA6250: Modern Discourses on Nation and Nationalism
This course focuses on the theoretical developments on the discourses of nation and nationalism. Ethnocentrism in western discourses were exposed due to raising nationalism, disintegration of erstwhile Marxist nations, with formation of European Union, with the growing cessionist movements and also with the ever-growing new claims from historically marginalized communities. Many scholars have from time to time tried to comprehend these complexities. Each time, the scholars had dealt with different contexts and needs. The first generation had to only contemplate with questions like what was nation, what are the elements that embody it, historic inklings of it ranging from language, culture, religion and so on. However, these predominantly western discourses failed to explain nationalist urge in the colonized nations which had never experienced nationalism. Consequently, the native intelligentsia had to come up
with their own perceptions. But, interestingly, current postcolonial scholars argue that the versions of nationalism produced by the natives does finally subdue to the broad epistemology (of Enlightenment) of colonialism and western nationalism. The present course tries to grapple with all these broad historical contexts and debates.

**LA6260: Issues in Indian economy**
The goal of this course is to critically discuss the various issues pertaining to the present Indian economy. The course mainly focuses on the issues related to India’s economic growth, financial sector reforms, banking sector reforms, fiscal and monetary policy, capital account liberalization and financial crisis.

**LA6270: Chronic Disease Management**
This course aims to introduce students to what are chronic diseases and the various factors involved in their management. The course consists of two modules: 1) a theoretical, taught module that includes topics ranging from patient education to supportive care systems (2 credits), and 2) a practical module where students are expected to visit hospitals and conduct a study (1 credit).

**LA6290: Continental Aesthetics**
Any attempt to create a theoretically dense framework for literary or cultural studies will have to be based on a firm grounding in Continental aesthetics. German and French philosophers of the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries have dominated the field of aesthetics in the West, and their work has been tremendously influential in creating the tools with which cultural products are analyzed all over the world. In this course, we will read key texts on aesthetics by German Idealists and Romantics (Kant, Hegel, Schlegel, Fichte, Humboldt, Herder, Hamann, Nietzsche) the Phenomenologists (Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty, Levinas, and others), the Poststructuralists (Barthes, De Man, Derrida, Foucault, Lyotard, Baudrillard), Marxism and the Frankfurt School (Marx, Bloch, Sartre, Adorno, Benjamin, Marcuse, Habermas), and the Psychoanalytic and Feminist traditions.

**LA6300: Anthropology and Popular Culture**
The aim of this course is to understand the ways in which ‘culture’, said to be one of the most difficult words in English (Raymond Williams 1976), is expressed and consumed by the people, in popular forms such as music, dance, film and television. The readings for this course will deal with popular culture from different parts of the world- North America, Latin America, Africa, and South Asia. Audio-visual resources will be widely used in lectures and class presentations. This course involves reading and writing.

**LAxxxx Advanced Health Psychology**
Introduction: Different approaches to studying health in social sciences (sociological, anthropological, health economics, psychology). Models of health behaviour change: Health belief model, theory of planned behaviour, self-efficacy; Health behaviours: concepts in eating (e.g., eating disorders), drinking (e.g., theories of alcohol dependence), smoking (e.g., smoking cessation research) and exercising (e.g., promotion of physical exercise). Psychological outcomes: Stress, depression, anxiety, distress; Illness perceptions; Salutogenic research; Models in coping and illness adaptations. Chronic illnesses and their management: Heart disease,
Diabetes, Cancer; Immunization and screening: attitudes and uptake; Health promotion & risk prevention Research methods in health psychology: Qualitative and quantitative approaches to research in health psychology; Exploratory vs. experimental research; Designing intervention studies: evaluating outcomes; Culture-based studies in health psychology

**LA6280: Psychological Resilience**

With the emergence of the positive psychology movement in 1998, the focus of psychology research has shifted considerably from the pathological model to the strengths model. This has led to several investigations in the area of resilience. This course aims to trace the history of resilience research through discussion of the concepts of vulnerability, risk and protective factors. Conceptual issues and methodological constraints faced in resilience research will be presented. Some of the major resilience theories and research will be introduced, evaluated and critiqued. An outline of current research in the area including contributions by Indian researchers, and future directions in the area will be discussed.

**LA 6025: Self Study**

Self study should be completed under the guidance of a faculty member. The student is required to choose a topic of study and work on it with the course instructor for three contact hours per week. This course may involve research, reading, or fieldwork experience which is preferably geared towards the writing of the final dissertation. The evaluation criteria will be set by the concerned faculty member. The student must get the concerned faculty member’s consent before registering for the self study course.

**XXxxxx: Free Elective**

The student may opt for an elective course from any other department in IITH.

**LA 6035: Development of Research Proposal**

The student is required to work on a research proposal in the summer months between Semester II and III. This proposal is to be presented before the M. Phil. Evaluation Committee in the beginning of Semester III. In Semesters III and IV, the student is expected to compile the final dissertation.

* Course content and description is subject to change depending on the discretion of course instructor with prior approval of the Senate. Please check the updated list of courses available before registration in each semester.

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