



MANGALORE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Semester IV (Soft Core 4)

ENS 556: DALIT WRITING

- Soft Core: 4 credits(3 lectures and one tutorial)
- End Semester Examination 70 marks
- Internal Assessment 30 marks – Monthly Tests/ Assignments/ Class Reports

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

The course seeks to introduce students to an in-depth study of

- Theories and critiques of the Caste system.
- The narrativisation of caste.
- Dalit writings from Karnataka in translation.
- The emergence of Dalit writing in Kannada.

COURSE OUTCOME:

The students will have achieved the following at the end of the semester

- A knowledge of the emergence of Dalit writings within the struggles of Dalit movements.
- An insight into how Dalit writing creates an aesthetics of radical interrogation.
- An ability to read the ways in which Dalit writing recasts and renews narrative conventions.
- The ability to read Dalit writing as a powerful critique of caste structured society.
- Familiarity with important texts of Dalit writing.
- A greater sensitivity to the oppressions and privileges of caste.

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SECTION A: DALIT LITERATURE AND AESTHETICS

Sharmila Rege: “Debating the Consumption of Dalit Autobiographies” (Selection from *Writing Caste, Writing Gender*)

Selections from *Steel Nibs are Sprouting: New Dalit Writing from South India, Dossier II, Kannada and Telugu:*

- **K. Satyanarayana and Susie Tharu:** “Introduction” to *Steel Nibs are Sprouting* (The section on Telugu writing (p31-36) may be omitted.)
- **B M Puttaiah:** “Does Dalit Literature Need Poetics”
- **B.Krishnappa:** “Dalit Life Portraits in Kuvempu’s Novels”

SECTION B: AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL WRITING

Selections from *Writing Caste, Writing Gender:*

- **Mukta Sarvagod**
- **Urmila Pawar**

Selections from *Steel Nibs are Sprouting*

Aravind Malagatti: My Grandfather’s Turban and Sceptre, The Bride in a Procession
Holding the Buffalo’s Tail

- **Thumbadi Ramaiah:**Manegara
- **N.K.Hanumanthaiah:** Wedding Lamps on Holey Street

ENS 556:DALIT WRITING (Contd.)

SECTION C: SHORT STORIES AND NOVEL

Selections from *Steel Nibs are Sprouting*:

- **Mogalli Ganesh:** “The Top”
- **Du Saraswathi:** “Tip”

IrathinaKarikalan: “Oorkali” (Selection from *Translating Caste*)

Devanura Mahadeva:*Odalala*

References

B.R. Ambedkar. *The Annihilation of Caste*

D R Nagaraj. *The Flaming Feet and Other Essays*

Gail Omvedt. *Understanding Caste: From Buddha to Ambedkar and Beyond*

K.Satyanarayana& Susie Tharu, eds. *Steel Nibs are Sprouting: New Dalit Writing from South India, Dossier II, Kannada and Telugu*

K.Satyanarayana& Susie Tharu, Eds. *No Alphabet in Sight*

Sharmila Rege. *Writing Caste, Writing Gender: Reading Dalit Women's Testimonios*

SharankumarLimbale. *Towards an Aesthetic of Dalit Literature*

TapanBasu, ed. *Translating Caste*

Uma Chakravarti. *Gendering Caste through a Feminist Lens*