

Undisciplining The Victorian Classroom

Peer-Reviewed Syllabus

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Undisciplining the Victorian Classroom in India: Case Study of JUDE

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Week 1: Birth of English Studies

The first module posits the discipline of English Studies as a British phenomenon closely associated with the growth of institutional spaces in Victorian England.

- Altick, Richard E. "The Mechanics' Institute and After," in *The English Common Reader: A Social History of the Mass Reading Public 1800-1900*. University of Chicago Press, 1957. pp. 188-212.
- Collins, John Churton. "Chapter IV: English Literature as a Subject of Teaching," in *The Study of English Literature: A Plea for its Recognition and Organization at the Universities*. Macmillan, 1891. pp. 56-69.
- Cook, Albert. "Chapter II: The Teaching of English," in *The Higher Study of English*. The Riverside Press, 1906. pp. 35-70.
- Palmer, D.J. Chapter III from *The Rise of English Studies*. Oxford University Press, 1965. Available at <http://oldsite.english.ucsb.edu/faculty/rraley/research/english/palmer.html>.

Week 2: English Studies in Army Cadet College and the Dissenting Academies

The second module unravels the colonial design behind the introduction of the English curriculum for military education. Simultaneously, it charts the alternative tradition of English Studies propagated by Dissenters as a reform to the moribund scholasticism of the universities.

- Duncan, Andrew George. "Chapter III: Education and Training after Commissioning," in *The Military Education of Junior Officers in the Edwardian Army*. Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) thesis, University of Birmingham, 2016. pp. 101-156.

- Miller, Thomas P. “Where Did College English Studies Come From?” *Rhetoric Review*, vol. 9, no. 1, 1990, pp. 50–69.
- Parker, W.R. “Where Do English Departments Come From?” *College English*, vol. 28, no. 5, 1967, pp. 339-357.
- Puncher, Sebastian Alexander George. “Introduction,” in *The Victorian Army and the Cadet Colleges: Woolwich and Sandhurst, c.1840-1902*. Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) thesis, University of Kent, 2019. pp. 9-21.

Week 3: Introduction of English Studies in India

The third module engages with the institution, practice, and ideology of English Studies introduced in India under British colonial rule.

- Gupta, Suman, Richard Allen, SubarnoChattarji, and Supriya Chaudhuri. “Part I: Background,” in *Reconsidering English Studies in Indian Higher Education*. Routledge, 2017. pp. 1-38.
- Rajan, Rajeswari Sunder, ed. “English in a Literate Society,” in *The Lie of the Land: English Literary Studies in India*. Oxford University Press, 1992. pp. 29-41.
- Tasildar, Ravindra Baburao. “Introduction,” in *English Studies in Indian Universities: The Present Scenario*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2018. pp. 1-16.
- Natarajan, Srividya, Nigel Joseph, and S. V. Srinivas. “The Anatomy of a White Elephant: Notes on the Functioning of English Departments in India,” in *Subject to Change: Teaching Literature in the Nineties*, ed. Susie Tharu. Orient Blackswan, 1998. pp. 73-84.
- Viswanathan, Gauri. “The Beginnings of English Literary Study,” in *Masks of Conquest: Literary Study and British Rule in India*. Columbia University Press, 1989. pp. 23-44.

Week 4: English Studies, Indian Society, British Imperialism

The fourth module provides an outline of the specific debates in the early nineteenth century on the English education of the Indian subjects in the British Empire.

- Macaulay, Thomas Babington. *Minute Upon Indian Education*. 1835. Available at http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00generallinks/macaulay/txt_minute_education_1835.html.
- Roy, Rammohun. “Letter to Lord Amherst” (1823), in *The Great Indian Education Debate*, eds. Martin Moir and Lynn Zastoupil. Routledge, 2000. pp. 110-114.
- Trevelyan, Charles Edward. “Chapter VI,” in *On the Education of the People of India*. 1838. pp. 170-186.

Week 5: Tracing the Early History of Jadavpur University

The fifth module traces the history of Jadavpur University, from its beginnings as a college of engineering and technology to establishing itself as a foremost institution with a vast repertoire of courses offered in all major disciplines.

- House of Commons, Great Britain, Parliament. *Copy of orders of the government of India for the establishment of the Council of Education in Bengal, and at the other presidencies*. ProQuest LLC, 2006. pp. 3-14.
- Society for the Promotion of Technical Education in Bengal. *Report of the National Council of Education, Bengal*. The Calcutta Council, 1900.
- National Council of Education, Bengal. *The National Council of Education, Bengal: A History and Homage*. P. C. V. Mallik, 1956.
- Palit, Chittabrata. "Swadeshi Technical Education: Bengal Technical Institute (1906-1928)," in *Scientific Bengal: Science, Technology, Medicine and Environment Under the Raj*. Kalpaz Publications, 2006. pp. 87-100.
- Baisya, Rajat Kanti. "Preface and Introduction," in *Makers of Jadavpur: A Technological Perspective*. Jadavpur University Press, 2021. pp. 31-52.

Week 6: Case Study 1 – Jasodhara Bagchi: Europe and the Question of Modernity

The sixth module looks at Jasodhara Bagchi's work on modernity and gender in strict protest against Europe's claim to hegemony. Prescribed texts also suggest the existence of an alternative canon of positivism through the criticism of literary representations from the second half of the nineteenth century in Bengal.

- Bagchi, Jasodhara. "Europe and the Question of Modernity." *Social Scientist*, vol. 24, no. 7/8, 1996, pp. 1-13.
- Bagchi, Jasodhara. "The Pre-Text." *Social Scientist*, vol. 28, no. 3/4, 2000, pp. 1-6.
- Bagchi, Jasodhara. "Socialising the Girl Child in Colonial Bengal." *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 28, no. 41, 1993, pp. 2214-2219.
- Bagchi, Jasodhara. "Representing Nationalism: Ideology of Motherhood in Colonial Bengal." *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 25, no. 42/43, 1990, pp. WS65-WS71.
- Bagchi, Jasodhara. "Motherhood and Patriarchy," in *Interrogating Motherhood*. Sage Publishing, 2017. pp. 32-50.
- Bagchi, Jasodhara. "Matriliny within Patriliney," in *A Space of Her Own: Personal Narratives of Twelve Women*, eds. Jasodhara Bagchi and Leela Gulati. Sage Publishing, 2005. pp. 223-236.
- Bagchi, Jasodhara. "Romanticism Finds Bankimchandra." *Essays and Studies*, vol. 12, 1998, pp. 9-20.

- Bagchi, Jasodhara. "Positivism and Nationalism: Womanhood and Crisis in Nationalist Fiction Bankimchandra's Anandmath." *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 20, no. 43, 1985, pp. WS58-WS62.

Week 7: Case Study 1 – Jasodhara Bagchi: Walter Pater and Victorian Literary Culture

The seventh module looks back at Bagchi's life-long engagement with the writings of Walter Pater through the lens of her position as a postcolonial feminist practitioner of English Studies in Calcutta. Through Bagchi's reading of Pater in the mid-fifties at Presidency College, Calcutta and later at Cambridge University, this module asks students to interrogate the mainstream Victorian assumptions regarding gender, race, and class.

- Bagchi, Jasodhara. "Walter Pater and the 'Fin de siècle' Aesthetes." *Essays and Studies*, vol. 2, 1972, pp. 49-67.
- Bagchi, Jasodhara. "Pater and Hopkins." *Essays and Studies*, vol. 3, 1981, pp. 158-166.
- Bagchi, Jasodhara. "Criticism and Culture in Victorian England: Carlyle, Arnold and Pater." *Essays and Studies*, vol. 6, 1987. pp. 160-180.
- Bagchi, Jasodhara. "Chapter 4," in *Gem-like Flame: Walter Pater*. Papyrus, 1997. pp. 88-124.

Week 8: Case Study 2 – Malini Bhattacharya: Romanticism and Victorianism Revisited

The eighth module looks at Malini Bhattacharya's research on the Romantic and Victorian periods. This module not only emphasizes the observations of an academic in India studying European literatures in English but also interacts with cultural formations that evolve out of such an encounter.

- Bhattacharya, Malini. "Utilitarianism and the Concept of Authorial Autonomy in Early 19th Century England." *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 17, no. 31, 1982, pp. PE49-PE57.
- Bhattacharya, Malini. "Towards Irrationalism: The Transformation of the Concept of Poetic Practice from Shelley to Carlyle." *Literature, Society and Ideology in the Victorian Era*, ed. Jasodhara Bagchi. Sterling Publishers Private Limited, 1991, pp. 109-124.
- Bhattacharya, Malini. "William Hazlitt as a Man of Letters." *Essays and Studies*, vol. 3, 1981, pp. 219-229.
- Bhattacharya, Malini. "*The Revolt of Hindostan: A Chartist Response to the Colonial Question*." *Essays and Studies*, vol. 12, 1998, pp. 54-65.

Week 9: Case Study 2 – Malini Bhattacharya: Talking of Power

The ninth module critically engages with the valuable insight offered in the writings of Bhattacharya, which are read through the lens of gender and imperialism in Bengal. Her engagement with the indigenous regional literature in the nineteenth century bears a testimony to the relative self-reflexivity that has developed in the academic space of English Studies in India.

- Bhattacharya, Malini. “The Historicity of Reason and Rammohun Roy on *Sati*,” in *Reading the Nineteenth Century*, ed. Sheila Lahiri Choudhury. Papyrus, 1996, pp. 105-115.
- Bhattacharya, Malini, and Abhijit Sen, ed. and trans. “Introduction,” in *Talking of Power: Early Writings of Bengali Women from the Mid-Nineteenth Century to the Beginning of the Twentieth Century*. Stree, 2003. pp. 1-17.
- Bhattacharya, Malini. “Calcutta: A Quest for Cultural Identity.” *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 25, no. 18/19, 1990, pp. 1007-1009.
- Bhattacharya, Malini. “Marxian Aesthetics and People's Democratic Movement.” *Social Scientist*, vol. 8, no. 5/6, 1979, pp. 80-90.
- Bhattacharya, Malini, and Anasuya Ghosh, ed. and trans. *Romanticism in Bengal 1881-1922: An Anthology of Articles from Bangla*. Papyrus, 2003.

Week 10: Case Study 3 – Sheila Lahiri Choudhury: An Alternative Reading of D. H. Lawrence

In the tenth module, we look at Sheila Lahiri Choudhury as an alternative reader of D. H. Lawrence who contextualizes Lawrence Studies in modernist and postmodernist perspectives.

- Choudhury, Sheila Lahiri. *An Alternative Gaze: Essays on D.H.Lawrence*. Chronicle Books, 2008.
- Choudhury, Sheila Lahiri. “The Hand of the Law: Lawrence and Censorship.” *Études Lawrenciennes*, vol. 41, 2010, pp. 27-41.
- Choudhury, Sheila Lahiri. “Lawrence’s Reception in India,” in *The Reception of D. H. Lawrence Around the World*, ed. Takeo Iida. Kyushu University Press, 1999.
- Choudhury, Sheila Lahiri. “D. H. Lawrence: The Two Versions, ‘Studies in Classic American Literature’ & ‘The Symbolic Meaning.’” *Essays and Studies*, vol. 2, 1972, pp. 75-83.
- Choudhury, Sheila Lahiri. “D. H. Lawrence and the Prophet-Artist Tradition.” *Essays and Studies*, vol. 3, 1981, pp. 203-218.
- Choudhury, Sheila Lahiri. “Lawrence’s Visual Imagination.” *Essays and Studies*, vol. 3, 1987.

Week 11: Case Study 3 – Sheila Lahiri Choudhury: Colonial Encounters with Carlyle, Thackeray, Butler

The eleventh module looks at the colonial reception of Thomas Carlyle, William Makepeace Thackeray, and Samuel Butler through the critical works of Sheila Lahiri Choudhury.

- Choudhury, Sheila Lahiri. “The Victorian Earthly Paradise,” in *Literature, Society and Ideology in the Victorian Era*, ed. Jasodhara Bagchi. Sterling Publishers Private Limited, 1991, pp. 17-35.
- Choudhury, Sheila Lahiri. “‘Thought is the Flesh Garment’: Aspects of Carlylean Discourse,” in *Reading the Nineteenth Century*, ed. Sheila Lahiri Choudhury. Papyrus, 1996, pp. 27-37.
- Choudhury, Sheila Lahiri. “Samuel Butler’s *Erewhon*: A Dystopian Vision.” *Essays and Studies*, vol. 10, 1996, pp. 9-18.
- Choudhury, Sheila Lahiri. “Thackeray’s *Vanity Fair*: A Study in Colonial Encounters.” *Essays and Studies*, vol. 11, 1997, pp. 121-132.

Week 12: Case Study 4 – Sajni Mukherji: Dickens Around the World

The long-time Dickensian, Sajni Mukherji, has researched extensively on the social impulse in the writings of Charles Dickens. In the twelfth module, we will re-read Dickens criticism through the prism of empire and colonization.

- Mukherji, Sajni. “Dickens: Charity and Reform.” *Essays and Studies*, vol. 3, 1981, pp. 272-285.
- Mukherji, Sajni. “Telescopic Philanthropy: Attitudes to Charity and the Empire in Charles Dickens.” *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 16, no. 42/43, 1981, pp. PE9-PE18.
- Mukherji, Sajni. “Dickens and the Illegitimate Child: Facts and Fables about Bastardy in Victorian England.” *Essays and Studies*, vol. 11, 1997, pp. 106-120.
- Mukherji, Sajni. “*The Dickens World* Revisited: Humphry House in Calcutta.” *Essays and Studies*, vol. 28-29, 2015. pp. 240-260.
- House, Humphry. *I Spy with My Little Eye*, “Introduction and Notes” by Sajni Mukherji and Sujaan Mukherjee. Jadavpur University Press, 2018. pp. 1-21.
- Mukherji, Sajni, and Sujaan Mukherjee. “‘A Very Odd and Frightening Pamphlet’: Policing in Humphry House’s Calcutta, 1936–38.” *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 56, 2021. Available at <https://www.epw.in/journal/2021/21/special-articles/%E2%80%98very-odd-and-frightening-pamphlet%E2%80%99.html>.

Week 13: Case Study 4 – Sajni Mukherji: Victorian Literature and Feminism

The thirteenth module engages Victorianist criticism with developments in gender studies and examines aspects of feminism in the critical readings offered by Mukherji.

- Mukherji, Sajni. “Woman in a Man’s World: Interaction of Fact and Fable in Dickens and Mayhew,” in *Literature, Society and Ideology in the Victorian Era*, ed. Jasodhara Bagchi. Sterling Publishers Private Limited, 1991, pp. 173-192.
- Mukherji, Sajni. “The Two Marthas: Legal and Philanthropic Panopticism,” in *Reading the Nineteenth Century*, ed. Sheila Lahiri Choudhury. Papyrus, 1996, pp. 59-70.
- Mukherji, Sajni. “Surviving Dickens.” *The Telegraph*, 12 February 2012, <https://www.telegraphindia.com/west-bengal/surviving-dickens/cid/1280721>.

Week 14: Living Traditions: Continuity and Change

The last module looks into the recent practices of the department in the field of Victorian Studies. Engaging with departmental publications published with support from the Centre for Advanced Studies (CAS) Programme at the department, as well as revisiting the activities of The Centre for Victorian Studies since its foundation in 2010, will offer perceptions about the radical changes over the last decade or two.

- Dutta, Shanta, “Introduction,” in *Ambivalence in Hardy: A Study of his Attitude to Women*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2000. pp. 1-22.
- Sarkar, Malabika, ed. “Introduction,” in *Moneta’s Veil: Essays on Nineteenth Century Literature*. Dorling Kindersley, 2010. pp. vii-xiii.
- *The Confidential Clerk Volumes 1-5*. The Centre for Victorian Studies, Jadavpur University, 2015-2019. Available at <https://theconfidentialclerk.com/>.