INTENDED AUDIENCE: Students of English Literature

INDUSTRIES APPLICABLE TO: Only academics

COURSE OUTLINE:
This is an eight-week course pitched at the Postgraduate level to provide an overview of a theoretical understanding of the fundamentals of Postmodernism in Literature. Through a discussion of seminal texts, key ideas and critical events in the 20th century, the course maps the dominant socio-cultural and literary practices usually labelled as Postmodernism. Ranging from popular culture to particular theories, from literary events to ideological debates, this course attempts to cover a wide variety of topics and frameworks, to enable a critical understanding of Postmodernism in Literature. The course includes the discussion of selected literary texts and engages with various literary critical approaches from different paradigms including Feminism and Postcolonialism.

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR:
Dr. Merin Simi Raj is an Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Madras. She specializes in Indian writing in English and Postcolonial studies and is currently involved in research related to literary historiography and Anglo-Indian studies. Her courses include History of English Language and Literature, Indian fiction in English, Literary Criticism and World Literature.

COURSE PLAN:
Week 1: Introducing Postmodernism - Definitions, Concepts, General background
Week 2: Reading the seminal texts and events which define Postmodernism - Lyotard, Barthes
Week 3: Locating the Postmodern in the contemporary
Week 4: Postmodernism in literature - a historical survey
Week 5: Postmodernism as a literary critical approach
Week 6: Detailed study of selected texts - Prose
Week 7: Detailed study of selected texts – Poetry and drama
Week 8: Detailed study of selected texts - miscellaneous