



**Gian**  
GLOBAL INITIATIVE OF ACADEMIC NETWORKS



# POSTCOLONIAL ECOCRITICISM: GLOBAL WRITINGS AND CRITICAL NATURES

**3<sup>RD</sup> TO 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2025**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES  
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
MALAVIYA NATIONAL INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY JAIPUR**



# OVERVIEW

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This course introduces participants to the intersection of postcolonial literary study and the study of the natural environment, or ecocriticism. These two areas examine the most pressing global concerns in our time, which has been termed the Anthropocene, the period beginning with European colonialism when humans began to have a major effect on the planet's ecosystems. This broad intersection has been called "ecological Imperialism" by historians Alfred Crosby and Richard Grove.

This course provides an overview of literary works from countries once colonized by Europe, including India, Sri Lanka, and most African countries, whose novelists and poets have been particularly perceptive in depicting these planetary changes in their art. Alongside these writers, the course surveys major historical developments leading to our current environmental crises, and introduces participants to key works of scholarship on the intersection of creative writing and environment.

In order to contextualize these developments, the course examines literary works from regions across the globe, including North America, India, the Caribbean, and parts of Africa. To that end, the course first introduces participants to writers who explore such topics as the idea of home and homelessness, the relationship of storytelling to place, the consequences of forced relocation (such as for Native American peoples), the influential concept of the frontier in North American history and media, (neo) colonialism and environmental changes, and the role of women in depictions as well as critiques of the natural environment. The course explains how these developments correlated with intellectual discussions and artistic movements concerning the effects of human activities on nature, and how these intellectual and artistic approaches shaped, for example, the Romantic movement, ideas of the Sublime and the Picturesque, notions of pastoralism and wilderness, perceptions of non-human animals, and anti-colonial Resistance. Analytical concepts the course covers include Ecological Imperialism, Environmental Justice, Risk Theory, the Land Ethic, Toxic Discourse (writings about industrial pollutants), Urban Ecologies, Indigeneity, Queer Ecologies, Ecoambiguity, New Materialisms, National Ecologies, Bioregionalism, and Petrocultures.

# COURSE OBJECTIVES

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The course prepares students to respond to key issues in postcolonial ecocriticism and the environmental humanities, analyze the work of the major thinkers in the fields, and examine literary texts and other cultural productions from a postcolonial perspective. By the end of the course, participants will:

- Understand how and why postcolonial literatures depict and explore natural environments.
- Understand key historical developments in these interconnected fields.
- Understand key analytical concepts for both postcolonial studies and environmental studies.
- Gain greater facility in applying key analytical concepts to the study of literary works in the field.
- Gain a deeper knowledge of, and appreciation for, key literary works in these fields.
- Enhance their capability of articulating their interpretations of these literary and scholarly works, and, consequently, of conveying these insights to their students and colleagues.



# ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT), erstwhile Malaviya Regional Engineering College (MREC), was established in 1965. The Department offers a wide range of courses and runs a vibrant PhD program in English, Economics, Political Science, Public Administration, Sociology and inter-disciplinary research. The Department of HSS at MNIT currently has eight faculty members who specialise in various contemporary fields and are engaged in high-quality research and teaching. The Department contributes to expanding the frontiers of knowledge in Humanities and Social Sciences by regularly organising exciting scholarly activities, drawing on the multiple disciplines, and enriching the entire spectrum of students and faculty.

The Language Laboratory and the PG Laboratory of the Department are well-furnished with thirty-one computer terminals and modern software essential for the teaching of undergraduate and postgraduate courses. The Department of HSS has organized four International and National Conferences, one GIAN Course, Summer Schools, FDPs/STCs, and many National Workshops.

## ABOUT MNIT JAIPUR

The Institute was jointly established in 1963 as Malaviya Regional Engineering College Jaipur by the Government of India and the Government of Rajasthan. Subsequently, on 26 June, 2002, the Institute was given the status of National Institute of Technology. On 15 August 2007, it was recognized as an Institute of National Importance through an Act of Parliament. The Institute is fully funded by the Ministry of Education (Shiksha Mantralaya), Government of India.

MNIT Jaipur lies in the heart of the pink city, imaginatively laid out with a picturesque landscape of 317 acres.

At present the Institute offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses (M.Tech./M.Sc./M.B.A./ M.Plan /M.Sc. & Ph.D) to more than 5000 students, in almost all leading fields of engineering & technology, architecture, management and sciences. Through its internationally renowned faculty, laboratories with state of the art equipment and excellent infrastructure, the Institute is actively engaged in research, consultancy and developmental activities, besides imparting regular teaching.

<b>Modules</b>	<b>Postcolonial Ecocriticism: Global Writings and Critical Natures</b> <b>March 3rd to 8th, 2025</b> <b>Total Contact Hours: 18 hours; 3 hours per day.</b>
<b>Who can attend ?</b>	<p>Research scholars, postdoctoral fellows, teachers and faculty in Humanities and Social Sciences.  Anyone else interested in the subject.  The course is self-contained so there are no strong prerequisites for attending it.  Number of participants for the course will be limited to <b>fifty</b>.</p>
<b>Fees</b>	<p><b>The participation fees (including 18% GST) for taking the course is as follows:</b>  <b>Participants from abroad : <u>US \$200</u></b>  <b>Participants from Industry/</b>  <b>Research Organizations: <u>INR 4720</u></b>  <b>Faculty Members from Academic Institutions: <u>INR 3540</u></b>  <b>Research Scholars: <u>INR 1180</u></b></p>
<b>How to register?</b>	<p>Register for the course by paying the Registration Fee through National Electronic Transfer(NEFT) as per the following details:</p> <p><b>Name of Account Holder: “Registrar (Sponsored Research), MNIT Jaipur”</b>  <b>Account No.: 676801700388</b>  <b>Bank: ICICI Bank Ltd.</b>  <b>Branch: MREC, Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur</b>  <b>IFSC Code: ICIC0006768</b>  <b>MICR No. 302229031</b></p> <p>After paying the Registration Fee, it is mandatory for the participants to register at the registration link:  <a href="https://forms.gle/hXArWk3TT9dKfs4h6">https://forms.gle/hXArWk3TT9dKfs4h6</a> to complete the registration process.  <b>Seats for this course are limited and will be available on a First Come First Served basis.</b>  <b>The course will be conducted in an offline mode at MNIT Jaipur campus and all participants will be provided a certificate.</b>  <b>It is compulsory for participants to be present in 90% of the sessions and participate in all the assessments in order to receive the certificate.</b></p>

### **Important Dates**

**Registration begins on 1st December, 2024.**  
**Last date for registration is 20th February, 2025.**

Shortlisted participants will be informed by email by 23rd Feb, 2025.

### **Accommodation**

Participants will be provided boarding and lodging on payment basis. In view of limited availability of rooms, accommodation will be provided on twin sharing and on first come first served basis.

Please send a request by email to [\*pbhatt.hum@mnit.ac.in\*](mailto:pbhatt.hum@mnit.ac.in) latest by **Feb. 3rd 2025** to reserve a room.

The nearest available hotel is Red Fox Hotel (Lemontree Hotels), wherein room bookings can be done by participants directly, on payment basis.

### **How to Reach MNIT Jaipur?**

Jaipur is well connected to all main cities in India by road, railways and air services. MNIT is situated on Jawaharlal Nehru (JLN) Marg and is approx. 10 kms away from the Jaipur Junction Railway Station and the Jaipur Central Sindhi Camp Bus Stand. Jaipur International Airport is approx. 3 kms away from the Institute.

# INTERNATIONAL EXPERT

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## Prof. Alan Johnson

Professor of English at Idaho State University

Alan Johnson (PhD University of California, Riverside) is a professor of English at Idaho State University, where for 25 years he has specialized in postcolonial literature, with an emphasis on India.

Besides postcolonial studies, he has taught a wide range of courses at the undergraduate and doctoral levels, on topics that include world literature and religion, globalization and literature, world mythologies and epics, ecocriticism, and history of the novel. He has served as a reviewer for many academic journals, including PMLA, ISLE, and Postcolonial Text, and has presented at numerous conferences in North America, Europe, and Asia. He was honored last year by the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association as a Sterling Fellow for his service to the organization, and presented the Sterling Keynote address at the association's October 2024 convention. He also presented the annual Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society keynote at Idaho State University in November 2024.

Johnson is the author of two books, *Out of Bounds: Anglo-Indian Literature and the Geography of Displacement* (Hawai'i, 2011) and *India's Forests, Real and Imagined: Writing the Indian Nation* (I. B. Tauris-Bloomsbury, 2023), the latter an interdisciplinary study of how forests have been depicted in the literatures of India, and how these depictions have informed national ideals.

He has also published scholarly articles on a range of topics, including ecocritical readings of Indian literature, Hindi film, teaching Amitav Ghosh, Mahasweta Devi's fiction, and the value of the humanities. In addition, he has published, as A. G. Johnson, a mystery novel set in an Indian hill station, *Family Plot* (2020), and several personal essays, including one in the Sept/Oct 2024 issue *Muse India*.

A former Fulbright scholar to India (2010 and 2016-17), and the recipient of state and institutional grants in the U.S., he is currently studying modern writers who draw on motifs of pilgrimage as a means of conveying human encounters with the natural world. His department profile is accessible at: <https://www.isu.edu/english/about/english-faculty/staffdirectoryentries/johnson-alan-.html>



# COURSE COORDINATOR

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## Dr. Preeti Bhatt

Associate Professor in English, MNIT Jaipur

Dr. Preeti Bhatt, is an Associate Professor in English, and Head of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur, India. With a teaching experience of more than twenty-five years, Dr. Bhatt's research interest lies in Twentieth Century Fiction and Drama, Indian Writing in English, Narrative Theory and Communication Skills.

Dr. Bhatt has authored and co-edited several books, including *Resilience and Transformation for Global Restructuring* (2022) published by Ethics International Press Limited, UK. She has presented research papers at International Conferences at Nanyang Technological University, La Trobe University, Oxford University, and many more for which she was awarded Travel Grants by the University Grants Commission, and by the concerned universities. Dr. Bhatt has published several research papers in national and international journals and in edited volumes.

She has organized International and National Conferences and Faculty Development Programs at MNIT Jaipur. She has supervised several PhD scholars and has worked on research projects funded by the UGC, the British Council, TEQIP III and DSIR, New Delhi. Additionally, she was the Presiding Officer of the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) and Coordinator of the Women's Cell of the Institute for two years. Dr. Bhatt, with Dr Nidhi Bansal, successfully coordinated a one-week Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) course on "South Asian Literature and Films: 1990 – Present" in May 2022.



# COURSE COORDINATOR

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## Dr. Nidhi Bansal

Assistant Professor in Sociology, MNIT Jaipur

Dr Nidhi Bansal holds the position of Assistant Professor in Sociology at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur, with more than 15 years of teaching and research experience. Her academic interests encompass sociology; digital inequalities and marginalization; sociology of gender; gerontology and social policy; rural development; and public policy.

Dr Bansal has earned recognition for her scholarly pursuits, including the award of a post-doctoral fellowship from ICSSR, New Delhi, as well as a research fellowship from UGC for her doctoral research. She also received the University Gold Medal during her post-graduation at the University of Rajasthan. Her research contributions are documented through her publications and presentations on national and international platforms.

Dr. Bansal has actively taken on roles in organizing various short-term courses, seminars, and conferences centred on 'Research Methods and Design,' 'Life Skills Management,' and 'Sustainable Development Goals.' She supervises a number of doctoral research scholars.

Dr Bansal serves as Faculty Coordinator for RCI at MNIT Jaipur for Central Rajasthan for Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, an initiative under the Ministry of Education, GOI. Currently, she is working on an ICSSR funded major project exploring gender parity in STEM education in schools in India.

## **Chief Patron**

**Prof. N.P. Padhy**

Chairman (I/C),  
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## **Head, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences**

Dr. Preeti Bhatt

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## **Local GIAN Coordinator**

Prof. Mahesh Kumar Jat

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