

Course Name – Language, Discourse and Mind: An Introduction to Discursive Psychology

Course Code – LH-E-809-E

Credits- 4

Faculty Name - Aparna Vyas

Faculty Email- avyas@jgu.edu.in

Faculty Biography - Dr. Aparna Vyas works in the field of social and cultural psychology. Her research interests include creativity and imagination; art, activism and resistance; processes of othering and marginalization; social change and identity processes; and psychobiography.

Course Description:

To do Discursive Psychology “is to do something that psychology has not already done in any systematic, empirical, and principled way, which is to examine how psychological concepts (memory, thought, emotion, etc.) are shaped for the functions they serve, in and for the nexus of social practices in which we use language.” (Edwards, 2012: 427)

This course introduces Discursive Psychology (DP), an approach that explores how people use language – whether in conversations, social media, interviews, or text – to create meaning, manage relationships, and perform actions. It is concerned with psychological issues, but psychology as it is lived by people in everyday life by their practices and social interactions. Here, cognition is approached as an object of inquiry, not as a pre-defined framework that shapes analysis from the outset. At its core, DP assumes that the discourse is both constructed and constructive, embedded in social context and action oriented.

We’ll begin by exploring how discursive psychology emerged and evolved, along with its complex relationship with cognitive psychology. We will approach discourse analysis focusing on key topics such as emotion, memory, attitude, prejudice, and identity. You will also learn how to design your own DP research project and critically engage with the ethical and practical considerations involved in research. The course concludes with a critical examination of how discourse reproduces and sustains power relations, inequality, and dominant forms of psychological knowledge.

Prerequisites- NA

Scheme of Evaluation and Grading – 70 marks (Internals- Class Activities, Oral Examination and Research Paper) + 30 Marks (End-term Exam)