

Course Title: The Words we Carry and the Words we Keep- How Language Shapes Us

Introduction

Welcome to a world of words without walls of which explores how language shapes us. The course is unbound by form, language, subject, genre or era and free wheels through poetry, prose, speeches, stories, slogans quotes, lyrics, jingles, proverbs, Hindi Urdu English and Hinglish. You go down this rabbit hole and find an enchanting warren where shayari lives cheek by jowl with Shakespeare, Nirala and Neruda and Faiz and Frost come at you with power and beauty.

The spiritual words, the mantras, the prayers which resonate with ancient faith and force, the words of warriors, or statesmen, sages and social transformers.

Words which have outlived their authors into timeless treasures of wisdom or delight and words which cross borders and travel far and wide. Words which vanish as cultures change and words which persist. We build a mosaic of learning, drawing insights and find growing in ourselves a deepening pool of inspiration, calmness, quiet reflection, healing and resilience. Our own therapeutic go-to. The framing is playful but the learning is real. So, bring the lines you cannot forget.

Brief Outline of course content:

The first 2 session will give a broad overview of the power of language, representative examples from law, literature political science, history, psychology, social work, science, technology, gender, human rights, fiction, music and art.

The essential reading list will be multi -hued and inter -disciplinary and will be looped back into class activities and the sessions will be fluid and flexible.

Each student will first build a personal library listing 6 sets of any 6 genres/subjects which will be shared and explained why they matter.

Each student will select genres which are new or of which they know a little.