

Department of English
Carleton University
Winter 2013
ENGL 2937A: South Asian Literatures II
Time: Mon/Wed 2:35 – 3:55 pm.
Location: Southam Hall 417
Please confirm location on Carleton Central
Instructor: Dr. Mayurika Chakravorty
Office: DT 1915
Office Hours: Mon 12:30-1:30 (or by appointment)
e.mail: mayurika_chakravorty@carleton.ca, mayurix@gmail.com
Phone: (613) 520-2600 x 2317

Course Description

The writers from the South-Asian continent (mainly comprising of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka) have produced one of the richest bodies of literature in recent times bagging significant literary prizes and global recognition. This course aims to introduce students to the major themes and tropes in modern South Asian literature. Some of the issues that we would focus on include the history of colonialism and decolonization (Independence/Partition) of the subcontinent, the role of English education and the formation of a distinct postcolonial cultural consciousness, social dynamics of caste and gender, issues of migration, globalization and social change. We shall read representative works – novels, short stories, and poems -- by authors who live in and write from South Asia, as well as those belonging to the South Asian diaspora.

Texts:

Bapsi Sidhwa, *Cracking India*

Amitav Ghosh, *Sea of Poppies*

Salman Rushdie *East, West*

Michael Ondaatje, *Anil's Ghost*

Monica Ali, *Brick Lane*

NOTE: Texts will be available for purchase at Octopus Books (116 Third Ave;
www.octopusbooks.ca; 613.233.2589)

In addition, we shall read a selection of short stories and poems by South Asian writers. These will be available either through the course website (on CuLearn) or reserved in the library. The details will be available at the beginning of the course.

We shall also watch and analyze a film: *Slumdog Millionaire* (Dir.: Danny Boyle, 2008).

Evaluation:

20 (10+10) % – Attendance + Participation. Students will be graded in terms of preparedness for the class as well as the level of participation in class discussions.

[***NOTE***: Students are expected to attend all classes, having read and reflected upon the materials according the syllabus. Absence from more than 5 classes per term may result in not being allowed to sit in an in-class exam or to hand in the final essay]

20 (10+10) % -- Short Response Papers (2).

15% -- In-Class Assignment I. On materials covered in class. Open-book.

20% -- In-Class Assignment II. On materials covered in class. Open-book.

25% -- Final Essay. 8-10 pages (double spaced) on at least three texts studied in class. The topic must be decided by a stipulated date in consultation with me.

Course Policies/ Class Etiquette

-- All assignments are mandatory and in-class assignments need to be written on the dates specified. If you are unable to make it to class on the day of an in-class assignment, please send me an e. mail in advance as soon as you can. You will need to provide a doctor's note (if you are ill) or other relevant documentation.

-- In the case of late submission of an assignment, there will be a penalty of 5% of the total mark per day unless there is a pressing and well-documented reason and the student has informed me beforehand.

-- All assignments (take-home, essays and term papers) need to be handed in class. Please do not drop in the department drop-box (unless specified in the syllabus or in class) or slip it under my door. If one of your assignments is lost, misplaced, or not received by the instructor, you are responsible for having a backup copy that can be submitted immediately upon request.

-- You must come to class with a copy of the textbook. You are expected to come to class having done the readings and prepared to discuss them at length. To ensure active participation and lively discussion in class, I do not recommend the use of laptops in class. However, if you wish to type your notes on the computer, you may do so using a word-processing software (e.g. MS Word). **But absolutely no internet browsing/e.mail checking/social-networking in class.** All

computers need to be closed during in-class assignments/tests. **Cell-phones need to be put away in silent mode during class hours.**

-- In this class, you will be using CuLearn to communicate with me or with one another, submit assignments, post reflections or questions about the readings etc. You are responsible for ensuring that you have a Carleton computer/email account and for checking this account on a regular basis. I will be using CuLearn to post announcements, reminders, and grades as well as to email about anything related to class. Please use the “mail” function in CuLearn to send me any messages. This will help to ensure that you have a record of any sent message in case it does not reach me.

-- Although it is expected that we shall discuss a wide variety of perspectives on the topics discussed in this class, we are also required to do so in a respectful manner. Racist, sexist, homophobic, or ableist comments are unacceptable. To this end, students must familiarize themselves with the regulations concerning conduct and academic standing as outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Schedule of Classes:

Week 1 (September 9- 11):

Day 1 (Monday, September 9): Introduction

Day 2 (Wednesday, September 11): Cracking India

Week 2 (September 16-18):

Day 3 (Monday, September 16): Cracking India

Day 4 (Wednesday, September 18): Cracking India

Week 3 (September 23-25):

Day 5 (Monday, September 23): Cracking India

Day 6 (Wednesday, September 25): Sea of Poppies **[First response paper due]**

Week 4 (September 30- October 2):

Day 7 (Monday, September 30): Sea of Poppies

Day 8 (Wednesday, October 2): Sea of Poppies

Week 5 (October 7-9):

Day 9 (Monday, October 7): Sea of Poppies

Day 10 (Wednesday, October 9): **Class Test I**

Week 6 (October 14-16):

Day 11 (Monday, October 14): **No class - Thanksgiving**

Day 12 (Wednesday, October 16): East, West

Week 7 (October 21-23):

Day 13 (Monday, October 21): East, West

Day 14 (Wednesday, October 23): East, West **[Second response paper due]**

Week 8 (October 28-30): Fall Break- No Classes

Week 9 (November 4-6):

Day 15 (Monday, November 4): Anil's Ghost

Day 16 (Wednesday, November 6): Anil's Ghost + Selected short stories/ poetry (to be circulated)

Week 11 (November 11-13):

Day 17 (Monday, November 11): Anil's Ghost

Day 18 (Wednesday, November 13): Selected short stories/ poetry (to be circulated)

Week 12 (November 18-20):

Day 19 (Monday, November 18): Brick Lane

Day 20 (Wednesday, November 20): **Class Test II**

Week 13 (November 25-27):

Day 21 (Monday, November 25): Brick Lane

Day 22 (Wednesday, November 27): Brick Lane

Week14 (December 2-4):

Day 23 (Monday, December 2): Slumdog Millionaire

Day 24 (Wednesday, December 4): Slumdog Millionaire

Week 15 (December 9):

Day 25 (Monday, December 9): Review [**Final Essay Due**]

Academic Honesty

All students are expected to be aware of and abide by the University's academic integrity policy. Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm.

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by Nov. 8, 2013 for the Fall term and March 7, 2014 for the Winter term.

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>.

For Religious Observance:

Students requesting academic accommodation for religious observance should make a formal, written request to the instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Please make requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. Accommodation will be worked out directly, and on an individual basis, between the student and instructor. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. If you have any questions about this, please refer to the Equity Services website (<http://www.carleton.ca/equity/>) for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic

Accommodations policies. You may also contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance.

For Pregnancy:

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Studies Advisor in Equity Services (<http://www.carleton.ca/equity/>) to complete a Letter of Accommodation. The student must also make an appointment with me to discuss her needs at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.