

Tentative Syllabus for ENGL 4115C/HIST 4915F/5915F, Winter 2016

Note: this information is subject to change before 7 Jan, 2016

Carleton University

Winter 2016

Department of English/ Department of History

ENGL 4115C: *Culture and the Text: Claiming the Past: Genre & Historical Writing*

HIST 4915F/5915F: *Topics in History: Claiming the Past: Genre & Historical Writing*

Prerequisite(s): fourth-year standing

Thursdays / 11:35am – 2:25pm

Location: PA 436

Sukeshi Kamra (English)

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Phone: 613-520-2600 x 2357

Office Hours: TBA

Danielle Kinsey (History)

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Office: PA 422

Phone: 613-520-2600 x 2832

Office Hours: TBA

I. Course description

This seminar, cross-listed with ENGL 4115C, will be team-taught by FASS Associate Dean Sukeshi Kamra, of the Department of English, and Professor Danielle Kinsey, of the Department of History. The central two questions of our weekly discussions will be: who gets to narrate the past and how? History has often been thought of as the pre-eminent discipline for studying the past, taking an engagement with archival material, social theory, and historical methodology to be fundamental to its practice. But aren't academic histories and, indeed, archival texts themselves, a kind of story-telling about the past, genres of literature in their own right? One half of the seminar will be devoted to examining the literary quality of academic historical writing or "Literature in History." Among other topics, we will discuss the creation of the archive and archival theory, issues of "voice" and subaltern studies, periodization, linear emplotment, and digital ways of creating multivocal historical interpretations. The other half of the seminar will be devoted to examining how historical interpretations have been fundamental to literature or "History in Literature." When faced with many of the limitations inherent to academic writing, some have found their political (and historical) voice in writing historical fiction. Sometimes these narratives find much wider popularity than any academic history; sometimes these narratives claim to be "truer" representations of the past as historical fictions than academic "non-fiction" narratives. In this half of the course we will discuss genre and historical fiction, memory and commemoration, and the political uses of representations of the past.

II. Preclusions

ENGL 4115C: A fourth year standing in the English Honours program.

HIST 4915F: This course is intended for Honours students in History. It is strongly recommended that HIST 3810 be taken prior to enrolment in 4000-level history seminars.

HIST 5915F: Must be an MA-level graduate student in History.

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III. Texts

The following books are required for the course and will be available for purchase at Octopus Books (116 Third Ave, in the Glebe). They will also be put on reserve in the library. All other readings will be available online via ARES or cuLearn.

- 1) Amitav Ghosh, *The Hungry Tide*, (Penguin Canada, 2005). 344 pages.
- 2) Kamila Shamsie, *Burnt Shadows*, (Anchor Canada, 2010). 384 pages.
- 3) Amin Maalouf, *The Gardens of Light*, translated by Dorothy Blair, (Interlink Publishing Group, 1999). 256 pages.
- 4) Orhan Pamuk, *My Name is Red*, translated by Erdag Goknar, (Vintage, 2002). 432 pages.

Students in the course are required to have access to cuLearn and check regularly their campus email.

IV. Course Calendar

7 January: Introduction to the Course; History, Memory, Narrative
Readings to be done for class: the Syllabus

14 January: History and Plot; History, Memory, Narrative
Readings to be done for class: Selections from Hayden White available via ARES.

21 January: Archive Stories
Readings to be done for class: Selections from Antoinette Burton and Betty Joseph available via ARES

DUE: Reading Response on either the readings from 14 Jan or 21 Jan (worth 10%)

28 January: Interpreting Primary Sources
DUE: Primary Source Presentations (worth 15%)

4 February: Ghosh
Readings to be done for class: Amitav Ghosh, *The Hungry Tide*

11 February: Ghosh
Readings to be done for class: Amitav Ghosh, *The Hungry Tide*
DUE: Reading Response on Ghosh (worth 10%)

15-19 February Winter Break, No classes! ☺

25 February: Indian Ocean World, the Islamic World System, and other historical rubrics
DUE: Essay #1 (worth 20%)

3 March: Fiction in the Archives
Readings to be done for class: Selections from Natalie Zemon Davis available via ARES

10 March: Pamuk
Reading to be done for class: Orhan Pamuk, *My Name is Red*

17 March: Maalouf
Reading to be done for class: Amin Maalouf, *The Gardens of Light*

24 March: Shamsie
Reading to be done for class: Kamila Shamsie, *Burnt Shadows*
DUE: Reading Response on readings for 3 Mar, 10 Mar, 17 Mar, or 24 Mar (worth 10%)

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31 March: Presentations

DUE: Essay Presentations (included in your participation mark)

7 April: History and Genre

DUE: Essay #2 (worth 25%)

8 April is the official last day of classes – Enjoy your summer!

V. Evaluation

Participation in weekly discussions and essay presentation	10%	ongoing
Reading Response 1 (2 pages double-spaced)	10%	21 Jan
Primary Source Presentation	15%	28 Jan
Reading Response 2 (2 pages double-spaced)	10%	11 Feb
Essay 1 (7-8 pages double-spaced)	20%	25 Feb
Reading Response 3 (2 pages double-spaced)	10%	24 Mar
Essay Presentation	included in participation	31 Mar
Essay 2 (8-10 pages double-spaced)	25%	7 April

Topics for the Primary Source Presentation and essays will be based on discussion in class and each student's interest. Topics must be approved by one or more instructors. More instructions on the expected format and content of reading responses, presentations, and essays will be given in class.

VI. Statement on Plagiarism

PLAGIARISM

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."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by 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. For more information please go to:

<http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity>.

VII. Requests for Academic Accommodations

Academic Accommodation:

From Equity Services (<http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/academic/>):

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: 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 see the [Student Guide](#)

Religious obligation: 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 see the [Student Guide](#)

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).