

Carleton University  
Winter 2023  
Department of English

**ENGL 2937A: *South Asian Literature II***

**Prerequisites:** *Second-year standing or permission of the department*  
**Preclusions:** *Precludes additional credit for ENGL 2502 (no longer offered)*

**Tuesdays and Thursdays**  
**11:35 am – 12:55 pm**  
**Richcraft Hall 1201**  
*(Please confirm location on Carleton Central)*  
**Format: In-Person**

**Instructor: Dr. Mayurika Chakravorty**  
**Email:** *mayurika.chakravorty@carleton.ca*  
**Office: Dunton Tower 1907**  
**Phone: 613-520-2600 (ext. 2117)**  
**Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30 -2:30 pm or by appointment**

**Important note:**

For information on deadlines for withdrawal from courses, please consult the Academic Year section of the Undergraduate Calendar (<https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>).

**I. Course description:** The writers from the South-Asian subcontinent have produced one of the richest bodies of literature in English in recent times and have made significant impact on contemporary literary studies. This course introduces students to representative literature from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. Some of the issues that we shall 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 poetry – by authors who live in and write from South Asia as well as those belonging to the South Asian diaspora.

**III. Learning Outcomes:** After the completion of this course, the students will be able to:

- i) critically engage with South Asian literary texts and situate them in the relevant historical and political contexts.
- ii) assess and compare literary traditions, strategies, devices, and tropes in South Asian literature.

- iii) investigate and analyze South Asian literary texts through relevant theoretical lens, including postcolonial, feminist, diaspora, and anti-caste theories.
- iv) develop critical thinking and writing skills through discussions and writing activities throughout the term.

#### **IV. Texts:**

Bapsi Sidhwa, *Cracking India* (ISBN: 9781571310484)  
Salman Rushdie, *East, West* (ISBN: 9780394281506)  
Amitav Ghosh, *Calcutta Chromosome* (ISBN: 9780380813940)  
Monica Ali, *Brick Lane* (ISBN: 9780743243315)

Additional short stories and poems will be available as course reserves through ARES (on Brightspace).

Hard copies of the books have been ordered through Octopus Books (116 Third Ave; [www.octopusbooks.ca](http://www.octopusbooks.ca); 613.233.2589). **You will be able to order the books directly from the course page for ENGL 2937 on their website: <https://shop.octopusbooks.ca/ENGL2937>**

It is very important to procure the books well in advance, to keep up with the course schedule.

#### **V. Evaluation:**

##### **Discussion Forum Posts (7): 35%**

The students will write discussion posts on the weekly readings, on Brightspace discussion forums. Prompts or guiding questions, along with instructions, expectations, and rubric of evaluation will be provided. There will be eight discussion forums throughout the term and the best seven would be counted (the weeks are identified in the schedule below). The posts will be due by Friday, 10 pm.

##### **Reflective Blog Entries (2): 20%**

Each entry should be about 500 words long and should reflect critical and analytical engagement with a specific aspect of the text (a theme, character, context etc.). They are not research papers and will not require secondary research. A blog entry may be developed into a research question for the final essay. Detailed instructions and a rubric of evaluation will be provided on Brightspace. **(Due on February 9 and March 9)**

##### **Participation and Engagement: 15%**

Throughout the term, the students are expected to actively participate in the guided discussions and other individual and group activities in class. Students will be graded in terms of preparedness for the class as well as the level of participation in class discussions. In addition, there will be feedback forms, self-assessment exercises, as well as optional activities on Brightspace.

**Final Essay: 30%**

The final essay (8-10) pages, font size 12, double spaced) would require in-depth research and analysis. You must have a substantial thesis statement/argument and demonstrate the use of critical secondary material. Detailed instructions and a rubric of evaluation will be provided on Brightspace. **(Due on April 11)**

Please note that the standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

**Grading System**

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar Rules and Regulations, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 56-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Failure. No academic credit. WDN = Withdrawn from the course			

**VI. Course calendar/Reading schedule:****Week 1**

January 10: Introduction

January 12: *Cracking India*

**Week 2**

January 17: *Cracking India*

January 19: *Cracking India*

**Week 3**

January 24: *Cracking India*

January 26: *Cracking India*

Discussion posts due this week (by 10 pm, Fri, Jan 27)

**Week 4**

January 31: *East, West* (East stories)

February 2: *East, West* (East stories)

Discussion posts due this week (by 10 pm, Fri, Feb 3)

**Week 5**

February 7: *East, West* (West Stories)

February 9: *East, West* (West Stories)

**(First blog entry due)**

**Week 6**

February 14: *East, West* (East, West stories)

February 16: *East, West* (East, West stories)

Discussion posts due this week (by 10 pm, Fri, Feb 17)

**Week 7**

**Winter Break!**

**Week 8**

February 28: Selected short stories

March 2: Selected short stories

Discussion posts due this week (by 10 pm, Fri, Mar 3)

**Week 9**

March 7: *Calcutta Chromosome*

March 9: *Calcutta Chromosome*

**(Second blog entry due)**

**Week 10**

March 14: *Calcutta Chromosome*

March 16: *Calcutta Chromosome* (live synchronous meeting)

Discussion posts due this week (by 10 pm, Fri, Mar 17)

**Week 11**

March 21: Selected Poetry

March 23: Selected Poetry

Discussion posts due this week (by 10 pm, Fri, Mar 24)

**Week 12**

March 28: *Brick Lane*

March 30: *Brick Lane* (live synchronous meeting)

Discussion posts due this week (by 10 pm, Fri, Mar 31)

**Week 13**

April 4: *Brick Lane*

April 6: *Brick Lane*

Discussion posts due this week (by 10 pm, Fri, Apr 7)

**Week 14**

April 11: *Review*

**Final Essay due**

## **VII. Course Policies**

**Attendance:** Regular attendance and participation in class discussions and activities are critical to the success in this course.

**Assignments:** All assignments are mandatory and must be completed by the due date specified. The assignments must be submitted on Brightspace.

**Late Submission Policy:** In the case of late submission of an assignment, there will be a penalty of 5% of the total mark per day. Deadline extensions will be considered when there is a legitimate, well-documented reason and must be requested in advance of the deadline. Relevant documentation may be required.

**Communication:** To communicate with me, please send an e-mail from your Carleton e-mail address. I am committed to responding to student e-mails within 2 working days, not including weekends (although, in most cases, it would be sooner!). If you do not receive a response within that time frame, then there is a strong possibility of a technical error; so, please re-send the e-mail.

**Course Outline:** The latest and the most current version of the course outline is posted on the Brightspace course page. There may be changes to this course outline, including to the course schedule, to facilitate optimum learning. Students will be notified in class and through e-mail about the changes, if necessary.

**Course Material Copyright:** The lectures and course materials (including all recordings, PowerPoint presentations, handouts, and similar materials) are protected by copyright and the course instructor is the exclusive owner of copyright and intellectual property of all course materials. Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without the express written consent of the instructor.

**Fair and Respectful Participation:** Students are encouraged to connect with their peers as much as possible. 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.

The Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures affirm that all members of the University community share a responsibility to:

- promote equity and fairness,
- respect and value diversity,
- prevent discrimination and harassment, and
- preserve the freedom of its members to carry out responsibly their scholarly work without threat of interference.

**Carleton University Equity Services states that “every member of the University community has a right to study, work and live in a safe environment free of discrimination or harassment.”**

### VIII. Statement on Plagiarism

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

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.

## IX. Statement on Student Mental Health

As a university student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

**Emergency Resources (on and off campus):** <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

### Carleton Resources:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

### Off-Campus Resources:

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

## X. Statement on Pandemic Measures

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are [a number of actions you can take](#) to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

**Feeling sick?** Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you should follow Carleton's [symptom reporting protocols](#).

**Masks:** Masks are no longer mandatory in university buildings and facilities. However, we continue to recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. We are aware that personal preferences regarding optional mask use will vary

greatly, and we ask that we all show consideration and care for each other during this transition.

**Vaccines:** While proof of vaccination is no longer required to access campus or participate in in-person Carleton activities, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible and submit their booster dose information in [cuScreen](#) as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and health and safety requirements please see the [University's COVID-19 website](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact [covidinfo@carleton.ca](mailto:covidinfo@carleton.ca).

## **XI. Requests for Academic Accommodations**

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

**Pregnancy:** Please 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 accommodation regarding a formally scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

**Religious obligation:** Please 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 [click here](#).

**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](mailto: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).



**Survivors of Sexual Violence**

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

**Accommodation for Student Activities**

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>