

Carleton University  
Winter 2017  
Department of English

**ENGL 2936A: South Asian Literatures I**

*Prerequisites: Second-year standing or permission of the department.*

*Preclusions: Precludes additional credit for ENGL 2502.*

**Time: M/W 8:35 am - 9:55 am**

**Location: Southam Hall 515**

*(Please confirm location on Carleton Central)*

**Instructor: Dr. Mayurika Chakravorty**

**Office: Dunton Tower 1915**

**Office Hours: Mondays 10:30 am - 12:00 noon**

**Email: mayurika.chakravorty@carleton.ca**

**Course Description**

This survey course introduces students to the literature of ancient, medieval, and early modern India. We shall study selections from the Rig Veda, the Mahabharata and the Ramayana, Buddhist sutras, Sufi and Bhakti poetry, travelogues written between the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries, autobiographies, and memoirs written by members of the Mughal court. The course will explore the historical debates on the cultural and social formations of South Asia up to the eighteenth century with a view to contextualize the literature of these as well as subsequent periods in Indian literary history.

**Required Texts**

The course material will be made available through ARES (e-reserves) on CuLearn. The students need not buy any text books.

**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 to the syllabus. **Absence from more than 5 classes per term may result in a 'Failed' final grade, regardless of submitted assignments or exam results.**]

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

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

**20%** -- Take-home Assignment: On a topic from a list handed out in advance.

**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**

-- All assignments are mandatory and class tests 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 you have 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.

### **Classroom Etiquette:**

-- **Please come to class on time and be prepared to stay for the entire class.** Coming late or leaving early is highly disruptive and disrespectful towards your professor and fellow students. If you arrive late due to unforeseen circumstances, please minimize the disturbance by sitting in a seat close to the door. If you leave early (unless there is a valid reason and you have informed me in advance, e.g. doctor's appointment), you will be marked absent for the day even if you have signed the attendance sheet.

-- **Please make sure you come to class with a copy of the text to be discussed on that specific day.**

-- You may use your laptop to type notes, **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.**

-- 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 Undergraduate Calendar can be accessed online at: <http://www.carleton.ca/cuuc/>

## **Reading Schedule**

### **January**

9 Introduction

11 Rig Veda

16 Rig Veda

18 Upanishads

23 Upanishads

25 Mahabharata

30 Mahabharata

### **February**

1 **In-class Assignment**

6 Mahabharata

8 Ramayana

13 Ramayana; Take Home Assignment topics handed in class

15 The Laws of Manu

20 **Reading Week; No Classes**

22 **Reading Week; No Classes**

27 The Laws of Manu; **Take home Assignment due.**

## **March**

1 Aryasura's *Jatakamala*

6 Purananuru/ Speaking of Siva

8 Catch-up Lecture

13 Sufi Poetry

15 **In-class Assignment**

20 Ibn-Batuta "A Traveller in Fourteenth Century Delhi"

22 Ibn-Batuta

27 Babur/ Dara-Shikoh

29 Bijak of Kabir/ Mirabai

## **April**

3 Roe, "A British Ambassador to the Great Mughal"

5 Review; **Final Essay/Term Paper due.**

## **Academic Honesty**

### **PLAGIARISM**

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "presenting, whether intentional 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, which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor.** The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct 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.

## **REQUEST FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION:**

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](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*). **Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.** After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website ([www.carleton.ca/pmc](http://www.carleton.ca/pmc)) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).