

Carleton University
Fall 2021
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)

Mondays and Wednesdays

2:35 pm – 3:55 pm

Format: *Blended*

Instructor: Dr. Mayurika Chakravorty

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Office: Dunton Tower 1907

Phone: 613-520-2600 (ext. 2117)

Office Hours: Thursdays 1:30 -2:30 pm or by appointment*

(*on Big Blue Button; details and link provided on the Brightspace course page)

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.

II. Preclusions: Precludes additional credit for ENGL 2502 (no longer offered)

III. Course Format/Mode of Delivery:

The course will be offered in the blended format, i.e., it will be taught as a blend or combination of synchronous live meetings and asynchronous activities. For the synchronous part of the course, the students will require reliable high-speed internet access and a computer with microphone (and ideally a webcam). A headset would be very useful too.

The asynchronous activities will take place on the course page on Brightspace, which would be the figurative home for this course, and you will be able to access it a few days before the first week of classes. This page will contain course lectures, videos, announcements, links to readings, as well as platforms to submit your assignments, post discussion entries, take quizzes etc. So, it is absolutely imperative that you access the course page regularly to succeed in this course!

What is a Blended Course?

An online course where there is a mixture of synchronous meetings and asynchronous activities. This means students need to be prepared to meet some of the time online via web conferencing tools at scheduled days and times. The specific dates will be communicated by the instructor in the course outline. The asynchronous activities are intended to provide flexibility to students when the class is not meeting synchronously. Students are expected to remain up to date with the deadlines and due dates provided by the instructor. These courses require reliable high-speed Internet access and a computer (ideally with a webcam) and a headset with a microphone.

IV. 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.

V. 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; 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>**

The books will be available for curbside pick-up or shipping.

E-copies of the books are also available through Kindle, Google Books and other platforms. It is very important to procure the books well in advance to keep up with the course schedule.

VI. 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 October 6 and November 3)**

Virtual Engagement: 15%

Throughout the term, the students are expected to actively participate in the guided discussions and other activities on Brightspace and during the live synchronous sessions. In addition, there will be feedback forms, self-assessment exercises, as well as optional activities on Brightspace. A rubric will be provided with criteria for evaluation of these components.

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 December 10)**

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			

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

September 8: Introduction (live synchronous meeting)

Week 2

September 13: *Cracking India*

September 15: *Cracking India* (live synchronous meeting)

Week 3

September 20: *Cracking India*

September 22: *Cracking India*

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

Week 4

September 27: *East, West* (East stories)

September 29: *East, West* (East stories) (live synchronous meeting)

Discussion posts due this week (by 10 pm, Fri, Oct 1)

Week 5

October 4: *East, West* (West Stories)

October 6: *East, West* (West Stories) (live synchronous meeting)

(First blog entry due)

Week 6

October 11: *East, West* (East, West stories)

October 13: *East, West* (East, West stories) (live synchronous meeting)

Discussion posts due this week (by 10 pm, Fri, Oct 15)

Week 7

October 18: Selected short stories

October 20: Selected short stories

Discussion posts due this week (by 10 pm, Fri, Oct 22)

Week 8

Fall Break!

Week 9

November 1: *Calcutta Chromosome*

November 3: *Calcutta Chromosome*. (live synchronous meeting)

(Second blog entry due)

Week 10

November 8: *Calcutta Chromosome*

November 10: *Calcutta Chromosome* (live synchronous meeting)

Discussion posts due this week (by 10 pm, Fri, Nov 12)

Week 11

November 15: Selected Poetry

November 17: Selected Poetry

Discussion posts due this week (by 10 pm, Fri, Nov 19)

Week 12

November 22: Selected Poetry

November 24: *Brick Lane* (live synchronous meeting)

Discussion posts due this week (by 10 pm, Fri, Nov 26)

Week 13

November 29: *Brick Lane*

December 1: *Brick Lane*

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

Week 14

December 6: *Brick Lane*

December 8: *Brick Lane* (live synchronous meeting)

December 10: Review

(Follows Monday schedule) **Final Essay due**

VIII. Course Policies

Attendance: The schedule of the live synchronous meetings is provided above. The link to join the meetings will be posted on Brightspace.

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.

Live Synchronous Meetings: Live sessions in this course may be recorded and made available to students, if needed. If you have concerns about being recorded, please email me directly so we can discuss your concerns.

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. 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

IX. 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.” According to the Department examples of plagiarism include the following:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- 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;
- 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 form of intellectual theft. It is a serious offence that 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 failure of the assignment, failure of the entire course, or suspension from a program. For more information please go to: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

X. Special Information Regarding Fall 2021 Pandemic Measures

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) and [mandatory self-screening](#) prior to coming to campus daily.

If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory [symptom reporting tool](#). For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be recorded in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the [COVID-19 website](#).

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits, designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs.

For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the [University's COVID-19 webpage](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca

Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#). Failure to comply with Carleton's COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.

XI. Requests 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 accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the [Pregnancy Accommodation Form](#).

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 [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 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>

XII. Student Support

There is a robust network of student support at Carleton University. You are strongly encouraged to utilize these services if you find yourself in need.

Here is a list of support services:

- [Student Support Services](#)
- [Brightspace Support](#)
- [Zoom Resource Site for Carleton Students](#)
- [BigBlueButton Support](#)
- [Information Technology Services](#)
- [Library Support](#)
- [Health and Counselling Services](#)

You may also explore Carleton's [Student Service Information](#) page.