

**Carleton University
Winter 2020
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)

Day/Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:05 am-11:25 am

Location: Tory Building 431

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Dr. Mayurika Chakravorty

Email: mayurika.chakravorty@carleton.ca

Office: Dunton Tower 1907

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

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12:30-1:30 or by appointment

I. Course description: The writers from the South Asian sub-continent have produced one of the richest bodies of literature in recent times, winning significant literary prizes and global recognition. This course introduces students to representative modern South Asian literature from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Afghanistan. Some of the issues that the course focuses 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, cultural politics, and social change. We shall read representative works – novels, short stories, poems, and graphic narratives – 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. 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 a series of in-class activities, tests, and essays throughout the term.

IV. Texts:

Bapsi Sidhwa, *Cracking India* (ISBN: 9781571310484)

Salman Rushdie, *East, West* (ISBN: 9780394281506)

Arundhati Roy, *God of Small Things* (ISBN: 9780735273283)

Samhita Arni and Moyna Chitrakar, *Sita's Ramayana* (ISBN: 9781554981458)

Monica Ali, *Brick Lane* (ISBN: 9780743243315)

[N.B.: The textbooks will be available at Octopus Books (116 Third Ave; www.octopusbooks.ca)]

Additional short stories and poems will be available as course reserves through ARES (on CuLearn). We shall also analyze representative visual media (documentaries and feature films) in class.

V. 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/activities. The students are expected to attend all classes, having read and reflected on the stipulated course readings according to the syllabus. They will be expected to participate in regular group discussions and other activities and share their ideas with the class.

20 (10+10) % -- Short response papers (2). 2 pages (double spaced). They should be short, thesis-driven analytical papers on a specific theme in a text that have been discussed in class by the due date(s). They should not be books reviews or summaries of the entire text. There is no

expectation of secondary research. Guidelines and rubric will be provided on CuLearn. **Due on January 30 and March 3.**

15% -- In-Class Test I. Open-book (i.e. specific textbooks may be used for textual references to strengthen the answers. Class notes or slides are not allowed). **February 13.**

20% -- In-Class Test II. Open-book (i.e. specific textbooks may be used for textual references to strengthen the answers. Class notes or slides are not allowed). **March 24.**

25% -- Final Essay. The final essay should be 8-10 pages long (font size 12, double spaced). It must have a substantial thesis statement and demonstrate the use of secondary sources (minimum 3-4 relevant, scholarly/peer-reviewed sources). It should focus on one or more texts/themes discussed in this course. Guidelines and rubric will be provided on CuLearn. The essay will be due on the last day of class (April 7). Please bring a hard copy to class.

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

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.

VI. 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 (response papers, essays) 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.

VII. 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 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 do not use it to browse the internet/ check e-mails/access social-networking etc. 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/>

VIII. 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 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/>

IX. Course calendar:

Schedule of Classes

Week 1

January 7: Introduction

January 9: *Cracking India*

Week 2

January 14: *Cracking India*

January 16: *Cracking India* + short story (available on CuLearn)

Week 3

January 21: *Cracking India*

January 23: *East, West*

Week 4

January 28: *East, West*

January 30: *East, West* (**First response paper due**)

Week 5

February 4: *God of Small Things*

February 6: *God of Small Things*/clips from *India Untouched* (documentary)

Week 6

February 11: *God of Small Things*

February 13: **In-Class Test I**

Week 7: Winter Break (No classes)

Week 8

February 25: *God of Small Things* + Selected poetry

February 27: Selected poetry (available on CuLearn)

Week 9

March 3: Selected poetry/memoir (available on CuLearn) (**Second response paper due**)

March 5: *The World Before Her*

Week 10

March 10: *Sita's Ramayana*

March 12: *Sita's Ramayana*

Week 11

March 17: *Sita's Ramayana*

March 19: Selected poetry/short story

Week 12

March 24: **In-class Test II**

March 26: *Brick Lane*

Week 13

March 31: *Brick Lane* + poems (Nasrin)

April 2: *Brick Lane*

Week 14

April 7: Review

X. 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

Please contact your instructor 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: <https://carleton.ca/equity/contact/form-pregnancy-accommodation/>

Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor 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: <https://carleton.ca/equity/focus/discrimination-harassment/religious-spiritual-observances/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more details, visit the Paul Menton Centre Website: carleton.ca/pmc

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 its 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/focus/sexual-violence-prevention-survivor-support/>

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 must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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>