

**Department of English**  
**Carleton University**  
**Winter 2013**  
**ENGL 2937A: South Asian Literatures II**  
**Time: Mon/Wed 2:35 – 3:55 pm.**  
**Location: Tory Building 447**  
*Please confirm location on Carleton Central*  
**Instructor: Dr. Mayurika Chakravorty**  
**Office: DT 1915**  
**Office Hours: Mon 1:00-2:00 (or by appointment)**  
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### **Course Description**

The writers from the South-Asian continent (mainly comprising of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka) have produced one of the richest bodies of literature in recent times bagging significant literary prizes and global recognition. This course aims to introduce students to the major themes and tropes in modern South Asian literature. Some of the issues that we would 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 poems -- by authors who live in and write from South Asia, as well as those belonging to the South Asian diaspora.

### **Texts:**

1. Rabindranath Tagore, *Home and the World*
2. Bapsi Sidhwa, *Cracking India*
3. Salman Rushdie *East, West*
4. Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*
5. Monica Ali, *Brick Lane*

**NOTE:** Texts are available for purchase at Octopus Books (116 Third Ave; [www.octopusbooks.ca](http://www.octopusbooks.ca); 613.233.2589).

In addition, we shall read a selection of short stories and poems by South Asian women writers: Ismat Chughtai/Taslima Nasrin/Selina Hossain/ Mahasweta Devi/ Meena Kandasamy (available online/to be circulated). We shall also watch and analyze a film: *Slumdog Millionaire* (Dir.: Danny Boyle, 2008).

## **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.]

**20 (10+10) % -- Short Response Papers (2).**

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

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

**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/ Class Etiquette**

-- All Assignments are mandatory and in-class assignments 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 the student has 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.

-- To ensure active participation and lively discussion in class, I do not recommend the use of laptops in class. However, if you wish to type your notes on the computer, you may do so using a word-processing software (e.g. MS Word). 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.

## **Reading Schedule**

### **January**

7 Introduction

9 Home and the World

14 Home and the World

16 Home and the World

21 Cracking India

23 Cracking India. **First Response Paper Due**

28 Cracking India

30 Cracking India

### **February**

4 **In-Class Assignment I**

6 East, West

11 East, West

13 East, West

18 **Winter Break**

20 **Winter Break**

25 East, West

27 Brick Lane. **Second Response Paper Due**

### **March**

4 Brick Lane

6 Brick Lane

## 11 In-Class Assignment II

13 God of Small Things

18 God of Small Things

20 God of Small Things

25 Selected women's short stories/poetry

27 Selected women's short stories/poetry

## April

1 Slumdog Millionaire

3 Slumdog Millionaire

8 Review **Final Essay Due.**

## Academic Honesty

All students are expected to be aware of and abide by the University's academic integrity policy. Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with 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.

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."

### **Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and 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, visit the Equity Services website [http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student\\_guide.htm](http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm).

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by Nov. 11, 2011 for the Fall term and March 7, 2012 for the Winter term.

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>.