

Carleton University
Winter 2018
Department of English
ENGL 2937A: South Asian Literature II
Pre-requisites: *Second year standing or permission of the department*
Preclusions: *Precludes additional credit for ENGL 2502 (no longer offered)*
Tue/Thurs 4:00 pm-5:30 pm
Location: Canal Building 2202
Please confirm location on Carleton Central
Instructor: Dr. Mayurika Chakravorty
Email: mayurika.chakravorty@carleton.ca
Office: Dunton Tower 1907
Office Hours: Tuesday 10:30 am-12:00 noon

Course Description

The writers from the South Asian sub-continent 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 from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Afghanistan. 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 poems -- by authors who live in and write from South Asia, as well as those belonging to the South Asian diaspora.

Required Texts:

Bapsi Sidhwa, *Cracking India*

Arundhati Roy, *God of Small Things*

Salman Rushdie *East, West*

Michael Ondaatje, *Anil's Ghost*

Monica Ali, *Brick Lane*

[Note: The textbooks will be available at Carleton University Bookstore]

In addition, we shall read a selection of short stories, poems, and creative non-fiction by South Asian authors including Ismat Chughtai, Saadat Hasan Manto, Kamala Das, Taslima Nasrin, Jeet Thayil, and Meena Kandasamy. These will be available either through the course website (on CuLearn) or reserved in the library. The details will be available at the beginning of the course.

We shall also analyze representative visual media – selections from documentaries and feature films – that capture the face of contemporary India.

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 not being allowed to sit in an in-class exam or to hand in the final essay]

20 (10+10) % -- Short response papers (2). 2 pages (double spaced). These should be short thesis-driven analytical papers on a specific theme in a text that we have discussed by the due date(s). **Due on February 1 and March 1**

15% -- In-Class Test I. On texts covered in class. Open-book. (February 15)

20% -- In-Class Test. On texts in class. Open-book. (March 22)

25% -- Final Essay. 8-10 pages (double spaced). Guidelines and rubric will be provided on CuLearn. 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/>

Schedule of Classes

Week 1

January 9: Introduction

January 11: *Cracking India*

Week 2

January 16: *Cracking India*

January 18: *Cracking India* + short story (available on CuLearn)

Week 3

January 23: *Cracking India*

January 25: *East, West*

Week 4

January 30: *East, West*

February 1: *East, West* (**First response paper due**)

Week 5

February 6: *God of Small Things*

February 8: *God of Small Things*/clips from *India Untouched* (documentary)

Week 6

February 13: *God of Small Things*

February 15: **In-Class Test I**

Week 7: Winter Break (No classes)

Week 8

February 27: *God of Small Things*

March 1: Selected poetry (available on CuLearn) (**Second response paper due**)

Week 9

March 6: Selected poetry/memoir (available on CuLearn)

March 8: Clips from *The World Before Her*

Week 10

March 13: *Anil's Ghost*

March 15: *Anil's Ghost*

Week 11

March 20: *Anil's Ghost*

March 22: **In-class Test II**

Week 12

March 27: *Brick Lane*

March 29: *Brick Lane*

Week 13

April 3: *Brick Lane* + poems (Nasrin)

April 5: *Brick Lane*

Week 14: Review

April 10: Review

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 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) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).