



**FIRST SEMESTER 2019-2020**

Course Handout Part II

01-08-2019

In addition to part-I (General Handout for all courses appended to the time table) this portion gives further specific details regarding the course.

Course No. : HSS F237  
Course Title : Contemporary Indian English Fiction  
Instructor-in-Charge : Dr. Maya Vinai

**Scope and Objective of the Course:** The Indian novel in English became a global phenomenon with the publication of Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* in 1981 and since then has come to dominate the field of postcolonial writing in English. Indian English Fiction has been acclaimed around the world for its innovation, radical new approaches to the art of storytelling and reworking of language. This course would examine the developments in contemporary Indian fiction in English from the 2000 to the present. The below mentioned novels which is set in their historical, political, social and cultural contexts, would allow the student to develop alternate view-points on contemporary India and its emerging literary trends. The objective of the course is to introduce students to the development of Indian English Literature especially fiction in the 21st C and to develop sensibility and emotions of students with the purpose to enable them to relish literature.

**Textbooks:**

1. King, Bruce. *Rewriting India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2014. (For writings from 2000 onwards)
2. Iyengar, K. R. S. *Indian Writing in English*. New Delhi: Sterling, 1984. (for pre-Independence writing)

**Reference books**

1. Sadana, Rashmi. *English Heart, Hindi Heartland: the Political Life of Literature in India*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012.
2. Parvati Raghuram et al. *Tracing an Indian Diaspora*. New Delhi: Sage Publishers, 2008.
3. Anuradha. *The Silent Witness*. Delhi: Jaico, 2019.
4. Sanyal, Sanjeev. *Life over Two Beers*. Delhi: Penguin, 2018.
5. Chitra Banerjee Divarunni- *The Palace of Illusions*. Delhi: Harper Collins: 2008.
6. Ghosh, Amitav. *The Hungry Tide*. Delhi: Harper Collins, 2005.
7. Nair, Anita. *Mistress*. Haryana: Penguin, 2005.



## Course Plan:

Lecture No.	Learning objectives	Topics to be covered	Chapter in the Text Book
1-5	Examine Indian English writing in the past decades till the 21 <sup>st</sup> C.	The development of Indian novel in English as a global phenomenon. Earliest fiction writers in India. Macaulay's 'Minutes to English Education in India.' Introduction of novel form in India.	S. Iyengar (Chap 1&2)
6-9	Analyze the characteristic features of Indian English Fiction in the 21 <sup>st</sup> C	Developments in contemporary Indian fiction in English from 2000 onwards to the present. Language, narrative strategies, literary genres, representation of 'home and 'nation', caste violence, religious conflicts, gender related issues.	King Bruce (Chap 3 &4)
10-13	Describe varied genres and pioneering works of the 21 <sup>st</sup> C	Pioneering Publications The authenticity debate, self-publishing, Booker Prize, most popular genres and writers of Contemporary Indian English Fiction.	Class Notes
14-20	Analyze mythic fiction and challenging the fictional liberties taken in mythic fiction	New approaches to the art of storytelling and re-working of language introduced in Indian English fiction. New ways of looking and challenging notions of caste, gender, <i>dharma</i> , class etc. from the vantage of mythic fiction.	R-5, Reading and analysis of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's <i>Palace of Illusions</i>
21-25	Analyze the representation of contemporary urban society	Social context of selected novels. Image, Imaginary and Social representations. Cosmopolitanism in cities, alternate view-points of urban spaces Changing dynamics of class, caste and gender in Bombay.	R-4, Reading and analysis of Sanjeev Sanyal's <i>Life Over two Beers</i>
26-29	Analyze the use of history as a backdrop		R-3, Reading and analysis of



	for fictional narratives.	Historical context of selected novels Dramatization of a historic event and delineation from the official accounts and popular versions. Challenging the representations of the author.	Anuradha's <i>The Silent Witness</i>
30-34	Discuss the cultural assimilation and alienation as depicted in fictional works	Cultural contexts of selected novels. Use of culture specific metaphors, language, food, traditions, rites and rituals to enhance the setting and mood of the narrative	R-7, Reading and Analysis of Anita Nair's <i>The Mistress</i>
35-39	Examine the representation of contemporary Indian politics in fictional narratives	Political Context of selected novels. Colonial legacy, postcolonial politics and construction of <i>nation</i> .	R-6, Reading and Analysis of Amitav Ghosh's <i>The Hungry Tide</i>
40-42	Summing up	Alternate view-points on Contemporary India Comparative study of the fictional narratives studied earlier	Class Notes

#### Evaluation Scheme:

Component	Duration	Weightage (%)	Date, Time & Venue	Nature of Component
Mid- Sem I	11/2 hours	30%	3/10, 1.30 -- 3.00 PM	CB
Assignment 1	40 mins	15%	TBA	OB/ Take Home
Assignment 2	40 mins	15%	TBA	OB/Take Home
Comprehensive Examination	3 hours	40%	10/12 FN	CB

**Chamber Consultation Hour:** To be announced in the class

**Notices:** Notices, if any, will be displayed on CMS.

**Make-up Policy:** Make up will be granted only in genuine cases.

#### Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy:

Academic honesty and integrity are to be maintained by all the students throughout the semester and no type of



academic dishonesty is acceptable.

**Dr. Maya Vinai**

**INSTRUCTOR-IN-CHARGE**

