



SECOND SEMESTER 2022-2023

Course Handout Part II

Date: 16-01-2023

In addition to Part-I (General Handout for all courses appended to the timetable), this portion gives further specific details regarding the course.

Course No. : HSS F237
Course Title : Contemporary Indian English Fiction
Instructor-in-Charge : Prof T Vijay Kumar

Scope and Objective of the Course: This course offers an overview of contemporary Indian fiction written in English while locating it in socio-political-cultural and literary-historical contexts. It will track the trajectory of the novel's growth in India noting both the landmarks and the signposts. While the primary focus of the course will be on selected contemporary texts, the course will also attempt to interrogate categories such as 'contemporary', 'Indian', and 'Indian English'. Selected fictional texts will be read in conjunction with some seminal essays on the subject to learn ways of reading texts and their subtexts and paratexts contrapuntally. The ultimate objective of the course is to develop in students an appreciation of creative writing and the faculty of critical thinking.

Textbooks:

1. Mukherjee, Meenakshi. *The Perishable Empire: Essays on Indian Writing in English*. OUP, 2000.

Reference books

1. Anjaria, Ulka. *A History of the Indian Novel in English*. Cambridge UP, 2014.
2. Chaudhuri, Amit. *Clearing a Space: Reflections on India, Literature and Culture*. Peter Lang, 2008.
3. Devy, GN. *In Another Tongue: Essays on Indian English Literature*. Macmillan, 1993.
4. Gopal, Priyamvada. *The Indian English Novel: Nation, History, and Narration*. OUP, 2009.
5. Khair, Tabish. *Babu Fictions: Alienation in Contemporary Indian English Novels*. OUP, 2001.
6. Kumar, Amitava, ed. *World Bank Literature*. University of Minnesota Press, 2002.
7. Mishra, Vijay. *The Literature of the Indian Diaspora: Theorizing the Diasporic Imaginary*. Routledge, 2007.
8. Wiemann, Dirk. *Genres of Modernity: Contemporary Indian Novels in English*. Rodopi, 2008.

Course Plan:

Lecture No.	Learning objectives	Topics to be covered	Chapter in the Text Book
1-6 Unit I	Introduction to the genre and locating it in the Indian context.	Definition of the novel; The origin and development of the novel; The rise of the Indian novel; English education; Colonial	TB—Ch 1; The text



		modernity and Indian response; “Is there an Indian way of thinking? An informal essay.”	
7-13 Unit II	Tracing the growth of the Indian novel in English and marking the important moments in its development.	The Indian novel in English; Early Indian novels in English; Major moments till the 1980s; Political movements, socio-cultural conflicts; Language debates; “The Anxiety of Indianness: Our Novels in English.”	TB—Ch-2; The text
14		Review and recap of Units I and II.	
15-22 Unit III	Understanding the efflorescence of Indian fiction in English and the new modes of narrating the nation.	The 1980s; The great Indian political churning; Salman Rushdie’s <i>Midnight’s Children</i> and the novels of the new India.	Class notes; Selected texts.
23-30 Unit IV	Examining the impact of globalization on literature and culture.	The 1990s; Post-liberalization India; Jhumpa Lahiri’s <i>Interpreter of Maladies</i> and the diasporic turn.	Class notes; Selected texts.
31		Review and recap of Units III and IV.	
32-39 Unit V	Analyzing marketing strategies and the making of a bestseller.	Chetan Bhagat and the bestseller phenomenon; Chick lit, lad lit, crime, suspense, and other subgenres.	Class notes; Selected texts.
40		Summing up.	

Evaluation Scheme:

Component	Duration	Weightage (%)	Date & Time	Nature of Component
Assignment 1 & 2	TBA	15 & 15	TBA	Open Book
Mid-semester Test	90 Minutes	30	14/03/2023 2:00 – 3:30 PM	Closed Book
Comprehensive Examination	3 hours	40	11/05/2023 FN	Closed Book

Chamber Consultation Hour: In K-128; Wednesday—11:30-12:30.

Notices: If any, will be posted on CMS.

Make-up Policy: Assignments will not be repeated. Make-up for other assessment components will be allowed only in genuine cases and on the basis of verifiable, documentary proof.



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.

T Vijay Kumar

INSTRUCTOR-IN-CHARGE

