



**Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani**  
Hyderabad Campus

## SECOND SEMESTER 2018-2019

### Course Handout Part II

Date: 07-01-2019

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 F316  
Course Title : Popular Literature and Culture of South Asia  
Instructor-in-Charge : Dr. Maya Vinai

**1. Scope and Objective of the Course:** The objective of the course is to introduce students to Literature and Popular Culture of South Asia. In doing so, it will familiarize students to perspectives and scenarios that differ from their own culture, thereby, helping them to have deeper understanding of other cultures. This course aims to bridge the gaps in our understanding of our neighbors and enable us to have broader perspectives

### **2. Textbooks:**

1. Betts, Raymond & Lyz Bly F. *A History of Popular Culture (2nd edition)*. New York: Routledge, 2013.

### **3. Reference books**

1. Hamid, Mohsin. *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*. New Delhi, Penguin, 2013.
2. Hashmi Nadia. *The Pearl that broke its Shell*. New York: Harper Collins, 2014.
3. Hosseini Khalid. *And the Mountains Echoed*. London: Bloomsbury, 2014.
4. Narula, Devika Khanna. *South Asian Diaspora: Sumer Blossoms in Winter Garden*. New Delhi: Creative, 2005.
5. Seyyid, Sharmila. *Ummath*. New Delhi: Harper Collins, 2018
6. Unnikrishnan Deepak. *Temporary People*. New Delhi, Penguin: 2017
7. Vora, Neha. *Impossible Citizens*. New Delhi: Orient Blackswan, 2013
8. Zaman, Niaz. *Literature in Bangladesh: Selected Short Stories from Bangladesh*. Dhaka: UPL, 2007.



#### 4. Course Plan:

Lecture No.	Learning Objectives	Topics to be covered	Reference to Chap/Sec/Book
1	Introductory Class	Introduction to the paper	Class Notes
2-6	Examine the political, social, cultural and economic configuration of South Asian countries.	South Asia as a region Geographical boundaries, political, economic and societal features. Major religious diversities of these South Asian countries. The connotations of the term 'popular culture' & its features.	Reading Material. (T.B Chapter 1&2)
7-13	Analyze and interrogate the racial stereotypes.	The concept of majority and minority Understanding <u>Afghanistan</u> through literature	Selected Excerpts from R.B 2 and R.B 3.
14-20	Analyze the representational strategies post 9/11 attacks	The politics of representation and breaking of stereotypes. Understanding <u>Pakistan</u> through literature Media Framing & the creation of East-West Binary	Selected Readings- Mohsin Hamid's <i>The Reluctant Fundamentalist</i> (R.B 1)
21- 26	Examine partition and trauma of dislocation in fiction.	Violence, migration and dislocation. Understanding the partition of 1947 and the liberation war of 1971 through Bangladeshi literature.	(R.B 8)
27-32	Analyze the concept of nation- building	Culture and its representation through literature and cinema Nation/ Desh Videsh dichotomy and the representation of NRI in Bollywood and South Asian cinema and fictional works.	Selected Readings
33- 38	Discuss the subversion of binaries.	Identity Formation Commonalities in spite of all the differences Food, culture, the gulf experience, and rituals	Selected short stories/excerpts from India, and Sri Lanka. (R.B 5 & Class Notes)
39-42	Analyze marginalization on account of ethnicity and gender	Bringing in marginalized voices & Writings by women Poems from Afghanistan Culture, Festivities, women in private and public sphere	Selected Landays



**5. Evaluation Scheme:**

Component	Duration	Weightage (%)	Date & Time	Nature of Component
Mid Sem	2 hours	30%	14/3 1.30 -3.00 PM	CB
Assignment 1	40 mins	15%	TBA	OB
Assignment 2	40 mins	15%	TBA	OB
Comprehensive Exam	3 hours	40%	09/05 FN	CB

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

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

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

**9. 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**

