



**FIRST SEMESTER 2022-2023**  
Course Handout Part II

Date: 29-08-2022

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 C316/ HSS F316  
**Course Title** : Popular Literature and Culture of South Asia  
**Instructor-in-Charge** : Dr. Maya Vinai

**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

**Textbooks:**

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

**Reference books**

1. Daniyal Mueenuddin. *In other rooms and other wonders*. New York: W.W Norton and Company, 2010.
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. Unnikrishnan Deepak. *Temporary People*. New Delhi, Penguin: 2017
6. Vora, Neha. *Impossible Citizens*. New Delhi: Orient Blackswan, 2013
7. Zaman, Niaz. *Literature in Bangladesh: Selected Short Stories from Bangladesh*. Dhaka: UPL, 2007.
8. Chambers, Claire. *Desi Delicacies: Food Writing from muslim South Asia*. New Delhi: Picador, 2013.

**Web Sources:**

<https://core.ac.uk/download/58757146.pdf>

**Course Plan:**

Lecture No.	Learning Objectives	Topics to be covered	Chapter in the Text Book
1	Introductory Class	Introduction to the paper	Class Notes



Lecture No.	Learning Objectives	Topics to be covered	Chapter in the Text Book
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 ethnic majority and minority, power divide and unequal distribution of resources Understanding <u>Afghanistan</u> through literature	Selected Excerpts from 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 and select advertisements. Media Framing, Islamaphobia & 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 7)
27-32	Discuss the concept of nation- building in films	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.	Class notes and handouts.
33- 38	Discuss the ethnic divide (Sinhala- Tamil) and subversion of binaries.	Identity Formation and Assertion Commonalities in spite of all the differences Food, culture, the gulf experience, and rituals	(R.B – 8) Selected short stories/excerpts from India, and Sri Lanka.
39-42	Analyze marginalization on account of ethnicity and gender and resistance by the subalterns.	Bringing in marginalized voices & Writings by women Poems from Afghanistan Culture, Festivities, women in private and public sphere	Selected South Asian Films & Advertisements & Class Notes

#### Evaluation Scheme:

Component	Duration	Weightage (%)	Date & Time	Nature of Component
Assignment/ Quiz/	40	30	Will be Announced	Open Book



Presentations (2)	minutes			
Mid Semester Exam	90 minutes	30	03/11 1.30 - 3.00PM	Closed Book
Comprehensive Exam	3 hours	40	26/12 AN	Closed Book

**Chamber Consultation:** Consultation hours will be announced in the class and shared on the CMS

**Notices:** Will be put up on CMS//alternative learning management system

**Make-up Policy:** Make ups will be granted only for exceptionally deserving cases and should be communicated at least 2 hours before the missed component along with sufficient evidence.

**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**

