



**FIRST SEMESTER 2023-2024**

Course Handout Part II

Date: 11-08-2023

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

**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. Shankaran, Lavanya. *The Red Carpet*. Delhi: Headline Book Publishing, 2013.
4. Bhattacharjee Subashish and Goutam Karmakar. *The City Speaks: Urban Spaces in Indian Literature*. New York: Routledge, 2022.
5. Neelakantan, Anand. *Valmiki's Women: Five Tales from the Ramayana*. Chennai: Westland Publications, 2021.
6. Narasimhan, Bhanumati. *Sita*. New Delhi: Penguin, 2021.



7. Majmudar, Amit. *Sitayana*. New Delhi: Penguin, 2019.
8. Nair, Anita. *Alphabet Soup for Lovers*. New Delhi: Harper Collins, 2015.
9. Ghosh, Amitav. *The Living Mountain*. Delhi: Harper Collins, 2022.
10. Verghese, Abraham. *The Covenants of Water*. London: Grove Atlantic Press, 2023
11. Rushdie, Salman. *The Victory City*. New Delhi: Penguin, 2023.

### Course Plan:

Lecture No.	Learning objectives	Topics to be covered	Chapter in the Textbook
1-2	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.	TB 1 (Chap 1 & 2)
3-4	Discuss the popular genres and 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.	TB -1
5-13	Analyze mythic fiction and challenging the fictional liberties taken in mythic fiction (Mythic Fiction)	New approaches to the art of storytelling and re-working of language and storylines in Indian English fiction. New ways of looking and challenging notions of caste, gender, <i>dharma</i> , class etc. in the 21 <sup>st</sup> C.	R-5/ R-6/R-7 Reading and analysis of excerpts from works of authors - Anand Neelakanthan, Amit Majmudar and Bhanumati Narasimhan.
14-17	Analyze the representations, recollections, and reproductions of the urban spaces. (City Fiction)	Social context of selected novels. Image, Imaginary and Social representations. Cosmopolitanism and in cities, alternate view-points of urban spaces Changing dynamics of class, caste and gender in Indian metropolitan cities.	R-3, Reading and analysis of excerpts from Lavanya Shankaran's <i>The Red Carpet</i>



18-23	Analyze the use of history as a backdrop for fictional narratives. (Historical Fiction)	Historical context of selected novels or short stories. Dramatization of a historic event and delineation from the official accounts and popular versions. Challenging the historic representations of the author.	R-11, Excerpts from Salman Rushdie's <i>The Victory City</i> .
24-29	Discuss the cultural assimilation and alienation as depicted in fictional works (Food Fiction)	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-8/10, Reading and Analysis of excerpts from <i>Alphabet Soup for Lovers</i> by Anita Nair
30-39	Examine the representation of environmental politics in fictional narratives (Eco Fiction)	Political and environmental context of selected novels. Colonial legacy, postcolonial politics and construction of <i>nation</i> .	R-9/10, Reading and Analysis of excerpts from Amitav Ghosh's <i>The Living Mountain</i> or Abraham Verghese's <i>Covenants of Water</i> .
40	Summing up	Alternate view-points of contemporary Indian writers & comparative study of the fictional narratives studied earlier	Class Notes

### Evaluation Scheme:

Component	Duration	Weightage (%)	Date, Time & Venue	Nature of Component
Assignment/ Quiz/ Presentation (2)	TBA	30%	To be Announced	Open Book
Mid Semester Test	90 mins	30%	10/10 - 2.00 - 3.30PM	Closed Book
Comprehensive Examination	180 mins	40%	11/12 FN	Closed Book

**Chamber Consultation:** Will be announced in the class



**Notices:** Will be posted on CMS.

**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**

