



Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani
Hyderabad Campus

SECOND SEMESTER 2023-2024

Course Handout Part II

Date: 09-01-2024

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 : Prof. 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. Hamid, Mohsin. *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*. Florida: Harcourt Publishers, 2007
2. Hosseini Khalid. *And the Mountains Echoed*. London: Bloomsbury, 2014.
3. Narula, Devika Khanna. *South Asian Diaspora: Sumer Blossoms in Winter Garden*. New Delhi: Creative, 2005.
4. Selvadurai, Shyam. *Many Roads to Paradise: An Anthology of Sri Lankan Literature*. New Delhi: Penguin, 2014.
5. Vora, Neha. *Impossible Citizens*. New Delhi: Orient Blackswan, 2013
6. Zaman, Niaz. *Literature in Bangladesh: Selected Short Stories from Bangladesh*. Dhaka: UPL, 2007.
7. Chambers, Claire. *Desi Delicacies: Food Writing from Muslim South Asia*. New Delhi: Picador, 2013.
8. Manivannan, Sharanya. *Incantations Over Water*. New Delhi: Context, 2021.

Web Sources:

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



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 ethnic majority and minority, power divide and unequal distribution of resources Understanding <u>Afghanistan</u> through literature	Selected Readings from R.B 2.
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, 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 Liberation war of 1971 and Bangladeshi culture through literature.	(R.B 7)
27-32	Discuss the concept of Nation-building in films	Culture and its representation through literature and cinema. Nation/ <i>Desh Videsh</i> 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 specificities of Srilankan culture.	Identity Formation and Assertion, Commonalities in spite of all the differences (culture, rituals, gender binaries)	(R.B – 4 or 8) Selected short stories from Sri Lanka.



Lecture No.	Learning Objectives	Topics to be covered	Reference to Chap/Sec/Book
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 (Landays), women in private and public sphere	Selected South Asian Films & Advertisements & Class Notes

Evaluation Scheme:

Component	Duration	Weightage (%)	Date & Time	Nature of Component
Mid Semester Exam	2 hours	30%	12/03 - 4.00 - 5.30PM	Closed Book
Assignment/ Quiz/ Presentations (2)	40 mins	30%	Will be Announced	Open Book
Comprehensive Exam	3 hours	40%	09/05 AN	Closed Book

Chamber Consultation: A Google Meet link along with consultation hours will be 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

