

## Course code: Contemporary Fictions of South Asian Diaspora

Programme: B. Tech. (ALL)

Year: III

Semester: 2018-19 (Even)

Course: Other Elective

Credits: 3

Hours: 40

**Course Context and Overview (100 words):** The course aims to offer a comprehensive knowledge about the history and the socio-political repercussions of diaspora of the South Asian people across the globe. It analyzes how contemporary writers of South Asian origin who are now residing away from their homeland explore the issues of cultural clash, ethnic conflicts, and assimilation. The course brings together few representative texts of contemporary times that focus on the fractured identities and upstaged histories of the South Asian people. More importantly, the course obtains an insightful exploration of the psychological impact of rootlessness, dispossession and displacement in different generations of immigrants and how they relentlessly revisit and reconstruct their homelands in search of holistic identity.

**Prerequisites Courses (If any):** None

(Course name and course code):

**Course outcomes (COs):**

<b>On completion of this course, the students will have the ability to:</b>
CO1: Develop a comprehensive understanding of the historical issues related to migration and displacement over the years, especially in the post-1960s period.
CO2: Engage with the problematic of multiple identities, ethnic discrimination and cultural assimilation in contemporary pluralistic societies.
CO3: Critically deal with the overriding concepts of nostalgia, memories and trauma that play crucial roles in a globalized world.
CO4: Analyze the history of the political conflicts and relate with the accelerating issues of nationalism in the South Asian culture.

**Course Topics:**

Topics	Lecture Hours	
<b>UNIT – I</b>		
<b>1. Amitav Ghosh's <i>The Shadow Lines</i></b>		
1.1 Political violence in the pre-independence, the days of partition and postcolonial India.	3	9
1.2 Role of individual/ collective memories and the creation of national/ personal identities in the context of South Asian ethnic separatism	3	

1.3 Homeland and historiography- how these concepts turn out to be problematic in a transnational world	3	
<b>UNIT – II</b> <b>2. Bapsi Sidhwa’s <i>Ice-Candy Man</i></b>		
2.1 History of India-Pakistan partition of 1947 and the escalating fires of communalism that lead to gendered violence	3	
2.2 Representation of women and her ‘body’ as a political signifier in the context of nationalism	3	
2.3 Disrupted narrative techniques- reflecting the fractured subjectivities at a time of political turmoil.	3	9
<b>UNIT – III</b> <b>3. Monica Ali’s <i>Brick Lane</i></b>		
3.1 Historical context of Bangladeshis’ migration to the West and their wobbly livelihood	1	
3.2 Disturbing experiences and abuse of the Bangladeshi women in the West	2	
3.3 Construction and re-conceptualization of homeland over the generations	3	9
3.4 Nostalgia and rebuilding of identity in midst of cultural estrangement	3	
<b>UNIT-IV</b> <b>4. Michael Ondaatje’s <i>Anil Ghost</i></b>		
4.1 Representation of displaced Sri-Lankans in the novel and their disturbed homecoming.	3	
4.2 Retrospection of homeland- the prolonged effects of bloody civil war and the continual neo-colonial violence	3	9
4.3 Loss and restoration of identity- fragmented subjectivity and dispersed bodies	3	
<b>5. Group Discussions, Seminars and Presentations</b>	4	4

**Textbook references (IEEE format):****Text Book:**

1. Amitav Ghosh. *The Shadow Lines*. New Delhi: Penguin India, 2009.
2. Bapsi Sidhwa. *Ice-Candy Man*. New Delhi: Penguin India, 2000.
3. Monica Ali. *Brick Lane*. New Delhi: Black Swan, 2004.
4. Michael Ondaatje. *Anil's Ghost*. Rhuk, 2011.

**Reference books:**

1. Uma Parameswaran. *Writing the Diaspora: Essays on Culture and Identity*. New Delhi: Rawat Publications, 2007.
2. Angshuman Kar. *Contemporary Indian Diaspora: Literary and Cultural Representations*. New Delhi: Rawat Publications, 2005.
3. Vinay Lal. *The Other Indian: A Political and Cultural History of South Asians in America*. London: HarperCollins, 2008.
4. Amit Sarwal. *South Asian Diaspora Narratives: Roots and Routes*. New Delhi: Rawat Publications, 2016.
5. Arvind Chowdhury. *Amitav Ghosh's The Shadow Lines: Critical Essays*. New Delhi: Atlantic Publishers, 2002.
6. Pradnya Deshmukh. *Nationalism, Transnationalism: Diasporic Experience in Bapsi Sidhwa and Chitra Divakaruni Banerjee*. Discovery Publishing House, 2012.

**Additional Resources (NPTEL, MIT Video Lectures, Web resources etc.):**

1. Online interviews of the authors
2. BBC documentaries on the histories of migration and refugee problems

**Evaluation Methods:**

Item	Weightage
Class Participation/ Quiz-5	20
Seminar Presentation-5	
Term Paper-10	
Midterm	30
Final Examination	50

**Prepared By: Dr. Payel Pal****Last Update: \_\_18.11.2018\_\_**