

BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE, PILANI (RAJASTHAN)
INSTRUCTION DIVISION

SECOND SEMESTER 2015-2016

Course Handout (Part II)

Date: 06/01/2016

In addition to part-I (General handout for all courses appended to the time table) this portion gives further specific details regarding the course.

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| Course Number | HSS F316 |
| Course Title | Popular Literature and Culture of South Asia |
| Instructor In-Charge | KUMAR SANKAR BHATTACHARYA |

Course Description

South Asia as a region; culture and its representation through literature and cinema; politics of representation, breaking the stereotypes; bringing in the marginalized voices; writings of women; identity formation; concept of majority and minority; commonality in spite of all the differences, violence, migration and dislocation.

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. Text Book: We will pick and choose from the following texts.

T-1 Katha Series: *20 Stories from South Asia*. New Delhi, 2012.

1. Mohsin Hamid's *Moth Smoke*
2. Kunzang Choden's *The Circle of Karma– A Novel*
3. Aravind Adiga's *The White Tiger*
4. Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runners*
5. Shyam Selvadurai's *Funny Boy*
6. Taslima Nasrin's *Lajja (The Shame)*

Films: We will pick and choose from the following films.

1. *The Kite Runner* (2007)
2. *Osama* (2003)
3. *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008)
4. *Namesake* (2006)
5. *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* (2013)

3. Course Plan

| Lecture No. | Learning Objectives | Topics to be covered | Reference to Chap/Sec/Book |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Introduction to South Asia | Introduction to South Asian society and culture | Reading Material |
| 2-4 | Characteristic Features of South Asian Culture, Society and Literature | An Overview of Contemporary Literature | Reading Material |
| 5-10 | Afghanistan | Understanding Afghanistan through pop lit and films | <i>The Kite Runners</i> : both text and film; Osama (2003) |
| 11-12 | Library Visit: How to look up for resources | Library Resources and their optimum utilization | Library Work |
| 13-18 | Pakistan | Understanding Pakistan through pop literature and film | T-1 or <i>Moth Smoke</i> and <i>The Reluctant Fundamentalist</i> (2013) |
| 19-22 | Bangladesh/Nepal | Understanding Bangladesh and Nepal through pop literature and films | T1 and documentaries/movies/ Taslima Nasrin |
| 23-27 | Bhutan | Understanding Bhutan through pop literature and films | <i>The Circle of Karma</i> and documentaries/movies |
| 28-31 | Srilanka | Understanding Srilanka through pop literature | T-1 or <i>Funny Boy</i> |
| 32-37 | India | Understanding India through pop literature and film | <i>The White Tiger</i> ; <i>Slumdog Millionaire</i> (2008) |
| 38-41 | Comparative analysis of the texts already read and the movies already watched. | Comparative analysis | All discussed above. |
| 42-43 | Summing up | | |

4. Evaluation Scheme

| Component | Duration | Weightage (%) | Date & Time | Remarks |
|------------------------|------------|---------------|----------------------|---------|
| Test / Midsem | 90 minutes | 25 | 14/3 9:00 - 10:30 AM | CB |
| Class Assignments(1) | - | 10 | -to be announced- | OB |
| Term Paper (5-6 pages) | | 25 | -to be announced- | OB |
| Participation Marks | | 05 | | |
| Comprehensive | 3 hours | 35 | 3/5 FN | CB |

5. **Chamber Consultation Hour:** To be announced in the class
6. **Notice:** Notices concerning this course will be on Nalanda.
7. **Plagiarism will be highly penalized.**
8. **Make-up Policy:** Make up will be granted only in genuine cases.

**KUMAR SANKAR
BHATTACHARYA**
Instructor In-charge