BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE

Popular Literature and Culture of South Asia (HSS F316)

Second Semester 2015-2016

Comprehensive Examination

May 3, 2016

Full Marks: 40

**Marks will be deducted for spelling mistakes and illegible handwriting. The word limit for each question is 350 to 400.**

1. If you were given to teach a course on Popular Literature and Culture of South Asia, what would be the areas you would focus on? Pick up any four themes that you want to discuss and explain them with the help of texts/films. You cannot use the same film/text more than once while discussing the themes. **10**

2. "Politics of representation is not only speaking on behalf of someone; it is also one of silencing the other. It is constructed by those in positions of power." Keeping in mind the above quote, discuss the politics of representation as depicted in *Slumdog Millionaire*. Refer to the film to substantiate your answer. **10**

3. "Arjie's journey from the luminous simplicity of childhood days into the more intricately shaded world of adults -- with its secrets, its injustices, and its capacity for violence -- is a memorable one, as time and time again the true longings of the human heart are held against the way things are". Basing your answer on the above statement and giving references from the text, discuss how effective Shyam Selvadurai is, in creating his novel. **10**

4. The sectarian politics in South Asia has become the site for the making and unmaking of citizenship. Taking Taslima Nasrin's *Lajja* as a reference, trace the production of minority citizenship and national belonging in South Asia. **10**