Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani

Popular Literature and Culture of South Asia (HSS F316)

Mid-Semester Evaluation (Open Book)

March 14, 2016 Full Marks: 25

**Marks will be deducted for spelling mistakes and illegible handwriting. The word limit for question 1 is 250-300 while for questions 2 and 3, it is 100-150. The students are allowed to have copies of the primary and secondary texts as well as class notes. No electronic gadgets except laptops are allowed.**

1. *The Kite Runner* (novel) and *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* (movie) describe monumental happenings that transform the lives of the protagonists. Identify two such events (one from each work) and show how they bind the story line from the beginning to the end. **10**

2. The tragedy of 1947 partition in the Indian subcontinent had drawn wide-ranging criticisms from various quarters. With close reference to Manto's *The Last Salute*, explain how partition became banal and problematic for the contemporary people. **08**

3. The *Circle of Karma* effortlessly tells a story of transition in a society's and a protagonist's life. Trace **three** such transitions and comment on their implications in the story line. **07**