**HM402 (Winter 2022)**

**Final Assignment**

**Maximum marks: 40**

Write a short essay (750- 1000 words) in response to ANY ONE of the following prompts. Each question gives you a choice of three readings, out of which your essay should engage in detail with at least one. Some ‘Questions to consider’ are provided for you to think about and structure your essay.

**Papers are due on May 15 (Sunday) by 5:00 pm. You may submit typed hard copies in my mailbox (#3112) or submit them on Classroom.**

Writing Instructions

1. Every essay should have a title, centered and underlined on the first page.
2. The document should be in 12-point font, double-spaced, with numbered pages. Your name and roll number should be clearly typed on the first page of the document.
3. The word-limit excludes references; these have to be provided at the end of the paper, under the clearly written heading “References”. It also excludes footnotes/endnotes, should you decide to use them. Their use is optional.
4. File names of soft copies should contain your first name and initial, along with ‘HMpaper’. Examples: ShreyPHMpaper, ForamKHMpaper
5. **Failure to follow these instructions will result in loss of marks.**
6. **Copying and pasting from the readings, and/or online sources or others’ papers is plagiarism and will result in a straight 0 on the paper. No more than 150 words should be taken from outside sources, and when they are, properly cited with quotation marks and references.**
7. **Please email me separately if you would like comments on your work. In general, I will simply enter the marks after evaluation, and your overall grade.**
8. **Michael Warner (2002) has argued that “the address of public speech is both personal and impersonal” (57). How do we understand this statement? Demonstrate your argument through a reading of one of the following:**
9. **Kajri Jain, “The Handbag that Exploded”**
10. **Madhava Prasad, “The Natives are Looking”**
11. **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, “This time the Struggle is for Our Independence!”**

*Questions to consider: What is Warner’s argument? What does he mean by the statement? What examples does he give? What are the key points he is making through the examples? What is the overall argument of the reading? What aspects are ‘personal’ and which are ‘impersonal’ in the particular type of speech or discourse being considered in the reading? What are the effects of this in each case: Mayawati’s monuments, early cinema in India, or Sheikh Mujib’s historic speech?*

1. **In her essay titled “Exploring Aspects of ‘the Public’ from 1991 to 2014” (2015), Sandria Freitag lists four approaches to studying publics in South Asia. One of these is “the public as enacted” (517). Examine her ideas in relation to any one of the following readings:**
2. **Lotte Hoek, “Urban Wallpaper”**
3. **Michael Hutt, “The Royal Palace Massacre”**
4. **From *Bombay Brokers* (2021): “Ashok Ravat” and “Nirmala”**

*Questions to consider: Again, what is Freitag arguing exactly? What are the specific points she is making about the ‘enacted public’? Does the enactment have to be visual? Do these points fit with the reading’s argument? Can we think of the publics discussed in the reading as enacted? If yes, in what way? If not, why not?*

1. **What is the role of space in the constitution and activity of publics? Discuss this question with reference to any one of the following:**
2. **Mobina Hashmi, “Private Publics”**
3. **William Glover, “Construing Urban Space”**
4. **Mihirini Sirisena, “Making Colombo Intimate”**

*Questions to consider: What kind of publics are being discussed in the reading? What does the reading say about these two aspects: constitution (making, constructing) and activity (the kind of things that are said, circulated) of the publics in each case? What do these have to do with space: actual, physical space, the space of nations and borders, and/or virtual spaces? Are these connected with each other? If yes, in what ways?*

1. **Nations and nationalist feeling have been historically shaped by technologies like the census, as well as art forms like poetry and music (Anderson 1983/2006; Kaviraj 2014). Examine the role of media and art in imagining national publics, with reference to any one of the following:**
2. **Peter Manuel, “Popular Music as Popular Expression”**
3. **Michael Hutt, “Five Nepali Novels”**
4. **Vishnupriya Das, “Dating Applications”**

*Questions to consider: What is Kaviraj’s argument about nationalism? What does he specifically say about art and poetry? What is the argument of the reading? Does it match with the points Kaviraj is making? If yes, in what specific ways? If not, what are the disagreements or dissimilarities?*