



Modern Literatures of South Asia: Postcolonial Identity and Indian Literature

Anjali Nerlekar

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Mon/Wed: 2.50pm-4.10pm, on Zoom

Office: on Zoom and Sakai

Office Hours: Friday 2-3pm (on zoom),
on chat on Sakai
and by appointment.

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Course Description

This course aims at an understanding of twentieth and twenty-first century Indian literature through the reading of texts that grapple with issues that come with colonialism and modernity during this period. It is futile to deny or ignore the colonial past of the country or its literary output; but it is also true that much too often one tends to focus only on the colonial in the description of Indian literature since independence. In this course, we will look at the anti-colonial development in Indian literature and then see how/whether Indian writers manage to break the grip and write beyond the colonial/postcolonial categories. In the process, we will examine the development of the idea of nationhood, the changing understandings of gender relations and the social structures of caste and class as they are represented by writers from the beginning of the twentieth century to the ones writing now.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will get a panoramic overview of Indian literature from the beginning of the twentieth century to the beginning of the twenty-first. While they will be able to connect the literary output of over hundred years to larger socio-political events in the region, they will also be able to instantiate some of the important historical happenings through particular literary works which will be read in close detail. Throughout, they will examine the mode, language and structure of the literary work and learn to connect the local and the particular with larger, overarching theoretical aspects of identity, hybridity, and nationalism.

Core Curriculum learning goals met by this course: AHo/AHp

The course can also count towards a minor or major in AMESALL, Comp Lit, and the minor in South Asian Studies program.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights; analyze South Asian literature in itself and in relation to specific local histories, values, languages, cultures; communicate complex ideas effectively, in standard written English, to a general audience; communicate effectively in modes appropriate to literary study; evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly; examine critically philosophical and other theoretical issues concerning the nature of reality, human experience, knowledge, value, and cultural production in relation to South Asia.

Required Texts

Course packet (uploaded on Sakai)

Tagore, *Home and the World*

U R Anantha Murthy, *Samskara: Rites for a Dead Man*

Girish Karnad, *Three Plays*

Arun Kolatkar, *Collected Poems in English*

Daya Pawar, *Baluta* (trans. Jerry Pinto)

Vivek Shanbaug, *Ghachar Ghochar*

Amruta Patil, *Kari*

Course Requirements

To pass this course, students must complete all required papers, examinations, presentations, and in-class assignments.

This will be a **synchronous online class**: “Synchronous online classes are those that require students and instructors to be online at the same time.” This also means that you will need a good wifi connection, access to a camera and speakers, in order to attend the class.

The instructor, however, may choose to replace a virtual class meeting with online activities and assignments if such a need arises. In such cases, students will be notified via class announcements in advance.

Grading:

The assignments will be 100 points each but they will be averaged as follows:

-Paper # 1 (short paper)	20%
-Paper # 2 (Research paper)	30%
-Class presentation	10%
-Reading Responses	25%
-Attendance and Participation	15%