

English 583: Special Topics in World Literature in English
Fall 2004: MW 1:30-3:18, Denney Hall 214
Prof. Pranav Jani

Office Hours: M 3:30-5, T 10-12
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Course Description

“Imagining India: 20th Century Literature and Film”

Indians and non-Indians have long participated in imagining India, portraying it as everything from an exotic, spiritual paradise to model for peaceful protest and pluralistic democracy, to a hell on earth, filled with oppression and violence. In this course, we will examine how 20th century literature and film by and/or about Indians provided a basis for these representations, reimagining the subcontinent in terms of race, ethnicity, religion, and gender in the process of serving the social and political interests of particular classes and groups. We will give special attention to the relationship between the more recent explosion of Indian writing in English and the forces of economic globalization that have created new Western markets for all things Indian (from books to restaurants to immigrants in the high-tech sector).

Required Texts

Monica Ali, *Brick Lane*
Sugata Bose and Ayesha Jalal, *Modern South Asia*
Mohandas Gandhi, *Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments With Truth*
Rokeya Hossein, *Sultana's Dream*
Kamala Markandaya, *Nectar in a Sieve*
Jhumpa Lahiri, *Interpreter of Maladies*
Rohinton Mistry, *Such a Long Journey*
Arundhati Roy, *God of Small Things*

Electronic Reserve readings on WebCT (details in class, or check <http://reserves.lib.ohio-state.edu/current/Eres/eres2001.html>)

Course Assignments

Active class participation (20%)
1-2 page, weekly paper to be turned in on Wednesdays. (50%)
A final research project combining oral and written work. (30%)

Course Policies

- 1) **Absences:** More than 2 absences from class will harm your participation grade, with a loss of 1/3 of a grade for each day lost. Emergencies should be reported to me as soon as possible, and may require documentation from the University.

- 2) Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the representation of another's works or ideas as one's own: it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another person's work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas. All cases of suspected plagiarism, in accordance with university rules, will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.
- 3) Help with Disabilities: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. We will coordinate something with the Office for Disability Services, located in 150 Pomerene Hall, which offers services for students with documented disabilities. Contact the ODS at 2-3307.

Course Outline

ER = Electronic Reserve; * = Supplemental Reading

Week 1: The Savage and the Exotic

W 9/22 Introduction

M 9/27 Wes Cecil, Pranav Jani, Stacy Takacs. "India Is(n't): (Mis)representations of India in the US Media" (ER)

Edward Said, from *Orientalism* (ER)

W 9/29 Clips from *Gunga Din* and *Indiana Jones* (film, in class)

Rudyard Kipling, "Gunga Din" <http://www.bartleby.com/103/48.html>

Rudyard Kipling, "The White Man's Burden"

<http://www.boondocksnet.com/ai/kipling/kipling.html>

Sugata Bose and Ayesha Jalal – Chapters 7-9

Week 2: National Imaginings

M 10/4 Satyajit Ray, *Charulata* (film, in class)

*Eric Hobsbawm, from *Nations and Nationalisms Since 1780* (ER)

W 10/6 Khushwant Singh, "A Bride for the Sahib" (ER)

Ruth Praver Jhabvala, "An Experience of India" (ER)

Bose and Jalal – Chapters 10, 11

Week 3: Feminist Visions

M 10/11 Ketan Mehta, *Spices* (film, in class)

W 10/13 Rokeya Hossain, *Sultana's Dream*

Chandra T. Mohanty, "Under Western Eyes" (ER)

Setup *Gandhi* viewing

Week 4: Gandhi and Myth

M 10/18 Mohandas Gandhi, *Autobiography*

Salman Rushdie, "Attenborough's Gandhi" (ER)

Bose and Jalal – Chapter 12

W 10/20 Gandhi, *Autobiography*
Bose and Jalal -- Chapters 13, 15
Manifesto of the Hindustan Republican Socialist Association (in class)

Week 5: Independence and After

M 10/25 Jawaharlal Nehru, "Tryst With Destiny" (in class)
Saadat Hasan Manto, "Toba Tek Singh" (ER)
Saadat Hasan Manto, "Black Margins" (ER)
Bose and Jalal -- Chapters 16, 17

W 10/27 Kamala Markandaya, *Nectar in a Sieve*
Clips from *Mother India* (film, in class)

Weeks 6-8: Challenges to the Nation

M 11/1 Rohinton Mistry, *Such a Long Journey*

W 11/3 Mistry, *Such a Long Journey*
Bose and Jalal -- Chapters 18, 19

M 11/8 Maniratnam, *Bombay* (film, in class)

Richard Davis, "The Iconography of Ram's Chariot" (ER)

W 11/10 Salman Rushdie, "March 2002: God in Gujarat" (ER)
Barkha Datt, et al. "Nothing New? Women as Victims in Gujarat" (ER)
*Sumit Sarkar, "Indian Nationalism and Hindutva" (ER)
*Bose and Jalal -- Chapter 20

M 11/15 Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*

W 11/17 Roy, "The End of Imagination" (ER)

Weeks 9-10: The Diaspora

M 11/22 Gurinder Chadha, *Bhaji on the Beach* (film, in class)

W 11/24 Jhumpa Lahiri, *The Interpreter of Maladies*

M 11/29 Monica Ali, *Brick Lane*

W 12/1 NO CLASS (due to my conference in Tunisia)

CLASS DURING FINALS WEEK FOR FINAL PROJECTS (TBA)