**Course Title: South Asian Literature**

**Course Code: LR215**

**Semester:**

**Course Instructor:**

**Email:**

**Course Description:**

           The term "South Asian literature" refers to the literary works of writers from the [Indian subcontinent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_subcontinent) and its diaspora. Countries to which South Asian literature's writers are linked include [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India), [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan), [Bangladesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh), [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) and [Nepal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nepal). Works from [Bhutan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhutan), [Myanmar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myanmar), [Tibet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tibet), and the [Maldives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maldives) are sometimes also included. South Asian literature is written in English as well as the many national and regional languages of the region.

This course aims to introduce South Asian literature in English (SAL).  A number of South Asian writers have emerged on the global literary scene since the end of the colonial era, offering a substantial contribution to world literature. This course will encompass the historical and cultural background elements that are important to fully understanding SAL.   More particular questions will come up from book to book. The different short stories, novels, plays and poems in the course represent some very important 20th century historical events, such as the moment of Independence for India and Pakistan, an event immediately followed by the ghastly violence of the 'Partition.' Others deal with more recent events: the Indo-Pakistan war of 1971, which led to the founding of Bangladesh; the civil war in Sri Lanka in the 1970s and 80s; or the recent border conflicts between India and Pakistan over Kashmir. Also, a significant number of the books in the course are written by 'diasporic' authors -- people who for various reasons live outside of the subcontinent. Finally, it is important to note that several of the authors in the course deal extensively with the question of women in South Asia, with an aim to criticize the mistreatment of women in South Asian society while nevertheless refusing to condemn that society (societies, really) outright.

**Objectives:**

Following are the course goals:

* This course will introduce the literature of South Asia from the fifteenth century to the present.
* It will focus on novels, short stories, plays and poetry that both present recognizable themes, and draw on the rich cultural, literary, and historical background of the region.
* By the end of the course, students should have gained some familiarity with key texts, authors, genres, and periods of South Asian literature.
* In addition to introducing modern South Asian literature, this course is designed to help develop analytical reading and writing skills.

**Methods:**Lecture/discussion classes; supervised library and internet research; individual conferences.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

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| Assignments | 15 |
| Quizzes | 10 |
| CP/Attendance | 5 |
| Mid Term | 25 |
| Final | 35 |
| Presentation | 10 |

**Contents:**

**Pakistan:**

Ahmed Ali’s Novel: Twilight in Delhi

Saadat Hasan Manto’s Short Stories: Khol Do, Thanda Gosht

Talat Abbasi’s short stories: Mirage, Bitter Gourd

Intizar Hussain’s short story: A Stranded Railroad Car

Enver Sajjad’s Short Story: The Bird

### Allama Muhammad Iqbal’s poem: Education and Women

**India:**

Girish Karnad’s plays: Nagamandala , Hayavadana

Krishnan Varma's short story: The Grass Eaters

**Bangladesh:**

Rabindranath Tagore’s Poem: Where the Mind is without Fear

Selina Hossain’s short story: In Retrospect

**Srilanka:**

Mahinda Thero’s poem:A Short Verse Freedom

Chandani Lokuge’s Novel: Turtle Nest

**Kashmir:**

Prof. Ghulam Nabi Firaq’s selected poems

**Nepal:**

Laxmi Prasad Devkota’poems: Crazy, Muna Madan

**Required Texts:**

Memon, M. U. (1991). *The Colour of nothingness: Modern Urdu short stories*. New Delhi, India: Penguin Books.

Das, Sisir Kumar (1995) [1995]. "Phases of Indian Poetry".A History Of Indian Literature 1911–1956. Sahitya Akademi.[*ISBN*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Book_Number) [*81-7201-798-7*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/81-7201-798-7).

Mukherjee, Sujit (1999) [1999].Dictionary of Indian Literature, One: Beginnings - 1850. New Delhi: Orient Blackswan.[*ISBN*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Book_Number) [*81-250 1453 5*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/81-250_1453_5).