

FW 2024-25

AP/EN 3430 6.0A (Y)	South Asian Literature
Course Director:	Vikrant Dadawala Email: vikrantd@yorku.ca Atkinson 728 Office Hours: Wednesdays, 3:00 to 4:00 pm, or by appointment
Time:	Tuesdays, 2:30 to 5:30 pm
Delivery Format:	SEMINAR
Description:	<p>This course is a curated introduction to major works of literature from South Asia (present-day India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal). We will read widely, across genres and languages — from ancient Sanskrit hymns to Sufi songs of love and longing, from memoirs by former Untouchables to stories of migration and resilience. Some of the questions we will ponder together include: How did colonialism shape modern South Asian literature? What makes Islam in South Asia different from Islam in the Middle East? Why is South Asian poetry obsessed with romantic love, despite the prevalence of arranged marriages? Does the global diaspora – in places as far apart as Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, or north America – have anything in common, besides shared ethnic roots? No prior knowledge of South Asia or any South Asian language is required, and all readings will be in English or in translation.</p> <p>This course provides an overview of major themes in South Asian history and culture. Students will develop a familiarity with key literary genres, religious traditions (Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, Buddhism) and major historical events (including colonialism, Partition, the Bangladesh war, and the civil wars in Sri Lanka and Nepal). Their work in this course will provide students with a solid foundation for further literary study, including more advanced courses in South Asian literature, diasporic literature, or world literature.</p>
Category:	C
Historical Requirement:	N/A
Requirements:	Fall Term Essay (10%) Fall Term Test, in-class (15%) Winter Term Essay (25%) Winter Term Test, in-class (15%) Short Assignments X 3 (30%) Active, informed participation (10%)
Reading List:	Most of the reading material assigned for the Fall Term will be uploaded to the Course website (eClass). If you have any trouble

	<p>accessing the books listed below, please reach out to the instructor.</p> <p>Fall term: Intizar Hussain, <i>Basti</i></p> <p>Winter term: O.V. Vijayan, <i>The Legends of Khasak</i> Daya Pawar, <i>Baluta</i> Gaiutra Bahadur, <i>Coolie Woman</i> Shyam Selvadurai, <i>Funny Boy</i></p>
Open To:	Yr 3,4