

V41.0721.001. South Asian Literature in English. MW 9.30-10.45AM.

Professor Robert Young

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10.00am—1.00pm, 19 University Place, Room 514

212-992-9591

rjy2@nyu.edu

Course description

Writers from South Asia have produced one of the richest literatures of the twentieth century. With a primary focus on contemporary fiction, in this course we will be reading and comparing novels by Indian, Pakistani and Sri Lankan writers, as well as writers of South Asian descent living in North America and the UK. Our authors will include Vikram Chandra, Amit Chaudhuri, Anita Desai, Amitav Ghosh, Romesh Gunsekera, Hanif Kureishi, Hari Kunzru, Michael Ondaatje, Arundhati Roy, Salman Rushdie, Shyam Selvadurai, Bapsi Sidhwa, and Sara Suleri. We will be reading the books chronologically.

Required Books

Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children* (1981)

Anita Desai, *Baumgartner's Bombay* (1988)

Amitav Ghosh, *The Shadow Lines* (1988)

Bapsi Sidhwa, *Ice-Candy Man* (1988)

Hanif Kureishi, *The Buddha of Suburbia* (1990)

Sara Suleri, *Meatless Days* (1991)

Romesh Gunsekera, *Reef* (1995)

Shyam Selvadurai, *Funny Boy* (1996)

Vikram Chandra, *Love and Longing in Bombay* (1997)

Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things* (1997)

Amit Chaudhuri, *Freedom Song* (2000)

Michael Ondaatje, *Anil's Ghost* (2000)

Hari Kunzru, *Transmission* (2004)

Course requirements:

Attendance and participation 20%, Blackboard contributions 20%, two papers 40%, Final 20% (guideline)

The course will be run as a discussion seminar rather than a lecture class: students are expected to participate actively in each class throughout the semester. In addition to completing the assigned reading for class, students in the class will also be expected to present a framing discussion of at least one of the assigned readings. This will be done in pairs and subsequently posted on Blackboard. Participants should highlight key features of the material and present to the class a series of questions about the particular novel that will develop class discussion. Over the course of the semester, all students will be

encouraged to contribute comments to the forum on Blackboard: the aim of the work on Blackboard will be to develop an account of the overall dynamics of contemporary Indian fiction.

Written requirement: Blackboard presentation, two 6 page papers, final.