

HL1005

Introduction to

Singapore Literature

MONDAYS, 10.30AM-12.20PM

ASST. PROFESSOR CHERYL JULIA LEE
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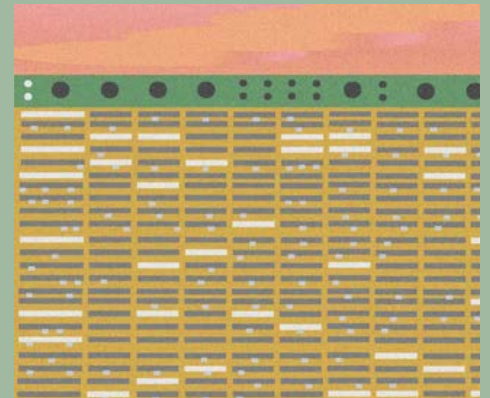
course objectives

This course aims to acquaint you with a range of modern Singapore literature including poetry, prose, drama, and film. As we will be studying these texts in relation to their socio-historical contexts, you will learn about the history and the culture of Singapore. Recurring themes include the formation of Singapore as a nation state, the development of a national identity, tensions in the usage of “standard” and colloquial English, multiculturalism, and the negotiation of social constraints within different communities.

In addition, you will be equipped with the necessary vocabulary to respond to a range of artistic medium and be given opportunities to develop research and writing skills.

assessment

- 20% - Participation
- 30% - Coursework Essay
- 50% - Final Exam



required texts

Please make sure you have a copy of Isa Kamari's *1819* and Balli Kaur Jaswal's *Inheritance*. All other material will be provided on NTULearn.



schedule

Week 1: Introduction - A Brief History of Singapore Literature

Week 2: Language and Voice

- Assigned Reading: Wang Gungwu's "Three Faces of Night" and excerpts from Joshua Ip's *sonnets from the singlish*

Week 3: Postcolonial Literature

- Assigned Reading: Isa Kamari's *1819*

Week 4: Writing History

- Assigned Reading: Isa Kamari's *1819*

Week 5: Transitions

- Assigned Reading: Kuo Pao Kun's "Mama Looking for her Cat"

Week 6: Nostalgia

- Assigned Reading: Arthur Yap's "There's no future in nostalgia", Boey Kim Cheng's "Clear Brightness", and Inez Tan's "Tyranny"

Week 7: Place

- Assigned Reading: Mohammed Latiff Mohammed's "Vanished" and Neon Yang's "Old Domes"

Week 8: National Identity and Symbols

- Assigned Reading: Edwin Thumboo's "Ulysses by the Merlion", Anne Lee Tzu Pheng's "The Merlion to Ulysses", and Kevin Martens Wong's "A Merlion for his Majesty"

Week 9: Writing from the Margins I

- Assigned Reading: Balli Kaur Jaswal, *Inheritance*

Week 10: Writing from the Margins II

- Assigned Reading: Balli Kaur Jaswal, *Inheritance*

Week 11: Migrant Communities

- Assigned Viewing: Yeo Siew Hua, *A Land Imagined*

Week 12: Singapore—City of the Future

- Assigned Reading: TBA

Week 13: Conclusion

