

## COURSE CONTENT

Course Code & Title	:	HL 4034 British-Asian Literature
Academic Unit	:	4 AU
Co-requisite	:	HL101

### Course Description

This course will examine some of the narratives that dominate but also transcend the field of British-Asian literature. We look at how writers depict double-consciousness, how they negotiate subject positions within and between different socio-cultural traditions/formations. We also look at how authors try to escape the perennial absorptionism versus enclavism debate that constrains “minority writing.”

How minority cultural production unsettles an assumed homology between race, culture and nation will be examined, as well as the sense in which British-Asian writing widens the cultural and semantic parameters of “Britishness.” At the same time, contemporaneous issues such as “post-nationalism” and “super-diversity” will also be addressed. Links with postcolonial studies and globalization studies will be made where appropriate.

### Learning Objectives

1. Students will read four novels in the area and utilize close reading skills to discuss issues raised by the texts. Major writers in the field will be covered.
2. Students will engage with and debate *some* of the topics raised, viz.:  
general features of minority / diasporic / exilic writing,  
cultural syncretism and relativism,  
metropolitan reception of minority / migrant writing.  
Orientalism / exoticism versus cultural contact / re-imagination.

### Content

#### Course Outline

Weeks	Text/topic	Readings	Misc
01	Introduction (13 Jan)		

02	Anita and Me		
03	Anita and Me		
04	Life Isn't All Ha Ha Hee Hee		
05	Life Isn't All Ha Ha Hee Hee		
06	The Life of a Banana		
07	The Life of a Banana		
	<b><u>RECESS (2 to 6 March)</u></b>		
08	Essay consultation or, alternatively, in-class test		<b><u>TBC</u></b>
09	Londonstani		
10	Londonstani		
11	Public Holiday (Good Friday, 3 April)		
12	Diasporic Writing --- General Features		
13	Summary and Exam Format		

## Learning Outcome

Students will obtain a grounding in the sub-field as well as knowledge of its recurrent concerns and debates.

## Student Assessment

Students will be assessed by:

### Essay

(this may be take-home or in the form of an in-class test) 30%

### Course participation

(& either presentation or online annotation exercise) 20%

Final Examination: 50%

100%

An essay is required for the written assignment component of the course.

## Textbooks/References

Primary readings:

1. Meera Syal. Anita and Me (1996)
2. Meera Syal. Life Isn't All Ha Ha Hee Hee (1999)
3. P.P. Wong. The Life of a Banana (2014)
4. Gautam Malkani, Londonstani (2007)

Secondary readings:

These will be confirmed later.