

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. In the first three novels, we will look at how writers depict double-consciousness, how they negotiate subject positions within and between different socio-cultural traditions/formations. With the last two novels, we will engage definitional concerns, that is, we will look at how writers 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 globalisation studies will be made where appropriate.

Learning Objectives

1. Students will read five novels in the area and utilise 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		
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	Sour Sweet		
07	Sour Sweet		
	<u>RECESS</u>		
08	ESSAY CONSULTATION		
09	A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers		
10	A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers		
11	The Match		
12	The Match		
13	Summary		

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:

One written assignment	30%
Course presentation & participation	20%
Final Examination:	<u>50%</u>
	<u>100%</u>

An essay of around 2,200 words is required for the written assignment component of the course.

NOTE - Both hard and soft copies must be submitted.

Textbooks/References

Primary readings:

1. Meera Syal. Anita and Me (1996)
2. Meera Syal. Life Isn't All Ha Ha Hee Hee (1999)
3. Timothy Mo. Sour Sweet (1982)
4. Xiaolu Guo. A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers (2008)
5. Romesh Gunsekera. The Match (2006)

Secondary readings:

These will be confirmed later.