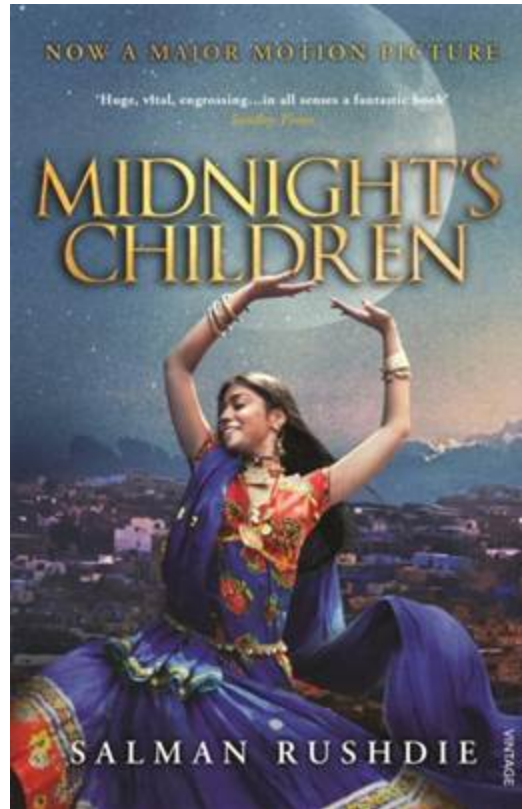


HL2022: South Asian Literature

Over the last few decades, South Asian literature in English has achieved a global prominence that is unique among postcolonial literatures. In this module, we will be tracing the historical development of South Asian writing from the colonial period to the present-day – exploring, among other things, the impact of British colonial policy on its formation, the ongoing debate surrounding its use of an ‘imperial’ language, and the reasons behind its phenomenal popularity. We will also be discussing some of the social and political issues with which this literature engages, whether it be the caste system, communal violence, or the vagaries of the postcolonial nation-state. Although literature will be our primary focus, the course will include an analysis of the Bollywood film *Lagaan*, and will introduce students to a number of important theoretical concepts within the field of postcolonial studies.



Primary Sources

FICTION

- Mulk Raj Anand, *Untouchable* (Penguin Classics 1990)
- Saadat Hasan Manto, *Selected Stories* (Available on NTU Learn)
- Michael Ondaatje, *Anil's Ghost* (Vintage 2000)
- Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things* (Flamingo 1997)
- Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children* (Vintage 1995)

FILM

Lagaan (dir. Ashutosh Gowariker; 2001)

Secondary Sources

Vinayak Chaturvedi (ed.), *Mapping Subaltern Studies and the Postcolonial*
 Ayesha Jalal and Sugata Bose, *Modern South Asia: History, Culture, Political Economy*

Arvind Krishna Mehrotra (ed.), *A History of Indian Literature in English*

Assessment

Class participation	10%
Coursework essay	40%
Examination	50%

Lecturer

Dr. Bede Scott

HSS-03-60

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Week	Topics	Readings
1 15 Jan	Introduction	
2 22 Jan	Caste and Class I	Mulk Raj Anand, <i>Untouchable</i>
3 29 Jan	Caste and Class II	Mulk Raj Anand, <i>Untouchable</i>
4 5 Feb	Communal Violence and Partition	Saadat Hasan Manto, 'Cold Meat,' 'Open It,' 'Toba Tek Singh'
5 12 Feb	History and the Nation-State I	Salman Rushdie, <i>Midnight's Children</i>
6 19 Feb	History and the Nation-State II	Salman Rushdie, <i>Midnight's Children</i>

7 26 Feb	Gender and Transgression I	Arundhati Roy, <i>The God of Small Things</i>
8	Recess	
9 12 March	Gender and Transgression II	Arundhati Roy, <i>The God of Small Things</i>
10 19 March	Bollywood, Cricket, and the Nation	FILM: <i>Lagaan</i>
11 26 March	Postcolonial Crime I	Michael Ondaatje, <i>Anil's Ghost</i>
12 2 April	Postcolonial Crime II	Michael Ondaatje, <i>Anil's Ghost</i>
13 9 April	Conclusion/Revision	