

HL0201: Images of Singapore: Literature, Film and Culture

Academic Year: 2019/ 2020 (Semester 2)

Lecture Day: Mondays 2:30-5:30pm (LT+7)

Academic Unit: 3 AU

Pre-requisite: NIL

Lecturer: Candice Balete (balete@ntu.edu.sg)

Course Description:

What are images, and to what extent do they inform our understanding of Singapore society? In the same vein, how can our understanding of contemporary Singapore inform our appreciation of these images and the (trans)national, socio-political, and historical contexts from which they are produced?

Based on these lines of inquiry, this course explores the images of Singapore through the reading of literary and filmic texts, and investigates how these images either inform or challenge our understanding of the predominant narratives of Singapore's culture and identity. Some of the recurring themes that emerge include identity and selfhood, family, race, gender and sexuality, nostalgia, and technology.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will be expected to:

1. Identify and engage with the images associated with Singapore in literary and filmic texts.
2. Produce informed critical responses through close-reading and analysis, as well as application of secondary research, to their chosen text(s).

Course Assessment:

- a. Midterm essay (1000 words): 50% (due Week 9, March 16)
- b. 2-hour Written Examination: 50%

Required Texts (for purchasing):

1. *Hook and Eye: Stories from the Margins* (2018), Philip Holden (ed.)
2. *Loss Adjustment* (2019) by Linda Collins
3. *The Riot Act* (2018) by Sebastian Sim
4. *Those Who Can't, Teach* (2010) by Haresh Sharma

Texts may be purchased from Booklink at NTU.

The other course readings will be provided on NTULearn, and the films will be screened during lecture.

Course Schedule:

Week	Reading	
Week 1 (Jan 13)	Introduction	
Week 2 (Jan 20)	Selected Poetry Readings (To be uploaded on NTULearn)	
Week 3 (Jan 27)	Chinese New Year, no class	
Week 4 (Feb 3)	Selected Poetry Readings (To be uploaded on NTULearn)	
Week 5 (Feb 10)	Selected Short Stories from <i>Hook and Eye: Stories from the Margins</i> (2018)	
Week 6 (Feb 17)	Selected Short Stories from <i>Hook and Eye: Stories from the Margins</i> (2018)	
Week 7 (Feb 24)	Film: <i>Rice Rhapsody</i> (2005) Screening in lecture	
Recess Week (Mar 2)		
Week 8 (Mar 9)	<i>Loss Adjustment</i> (2019) by Linda Collins	
Week 9 (Mar 16)	<i>The Riot Act</i> (2018) by Sebastian Sim	Midterm essay due (Hard copy submission + Turnitin)
Week 10 (Mar 23)	<i>The Riot Act</i> (2018) by Sebastian Sim	
Week 11 (Mar 30)	Selected short films Screening in lecture	
Week 12 (Apr 6)	<i>Those Who Can't, Teach</i> (2010) by Haresh Sharma	
Week 13 (Apr 13)	Conclusion/ Course Revision	