

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		
	<u>RECESS (3 to 7 March)</u>		
08	ESSAY CONSULTATION		<u>Essay due date TBA</u>
09	Londonstani		
10	Londonstani		
11	Public Holiday (31 March)		
12	Presentations		
13	Summary (14 April)		

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 assignment	25%
Course presentation & participation	15%
Final Examination:	<u>60%</u>
	<u>100%</u>

An essay of around 2,000 words is required for the written assignment component of the course.

NOTE - Both hard and soft copies must be submitted. **Soft copy MUST be in Word format.**

NB: Please note that Generative Artificial Intelligence ARE NOT ALLOWED for use in any of the assignments of this 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.