

M.A. English Literature

Semester-II, Even Semester-2020

Indian Literature[s] in Translation

Course designed and Taught by: Prof Nishat Zaidi

Direct Questions or Comments to: Prof Nishat Zaidi

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**Direct Contact Hour and Room: Wednesday 11.50 am to 1.30 pm,
Thursday 11.50 am to 1.30 pm, H-115, Department of English**

By Appointment: email or phone 26981717-2956/2952 [O]

Course Description:

Reading and writing about poetry, drama, fiction, and memoir by Indian writers writing in various Indian languages in 19th and 20th century India gives students the opportunity to stretch critically, while encountering some of the riches of these writings. Focused studies of selected key texts of the nineteenth and twentieth century open opportunities to study writers who lived through the period of nation's transition from pre-colonial to colonial and then from the colonial to post-colonial phase. Discussions will revolve around the ways in which these texts represent nation along with their engagement with issues of gender, caste and class in societies in transition. We will consider the usefulness of contextual frames and labels such as "Indian Literature" or "Indian Literatures." Units I & II of the course will be taught by Prof. Nishat Zaidi. For the complete course please refer to JMI website.

Components of the Grade:

25% Mid-term Test

25% Paper: 10-12 pages, approx. 3000-5000 words on Fiction /Drama/ Non-fiction
Indian writing in Translation

[Average of the above two will be counted]

75% End Semester Examination

Course Requirement:

There are no prerequisites for this class, but it will be helpful if you have done some reading in 19th and 20th-century literatures written in languages other than English in India, in Indian History and in contemporary postcolonial and cultural theory. An interest in Translation Studies would be an added benefit. Reading for the class is quite heavy, and the students are expected to do them on time, since we will be spending at least half our time each week in discussion.

Required Texts:

Mirza Mohammad Hadi Ruswa: *Umrao Jan Ada* (Trans. from Urdu by David Matthews) Also refer to Khushwant Singh's translation when needed.

Shrilal Shukla : *Raag Darbari* (Trans. from Hindi by Gillian Wright)

Mirza Ghalib: [Selected] *Urdu Letters of Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib* (Trans. and annotated by Daud Rahbar),

Mirza Ghalib: *Dastanbuy: A Diary of the Indian Revolt of 1857* (Translated from the Persian by Khwaja Ahmad Faruqi, pp. 26-30, 37-40, 44-46, 48, 52).

Tarabai Shinde : Excerpts from *Stri Purush Tulana* (from *Women Writing in India* eds. Susie Tharu and K Lalita, Vol 1, pp.221-234)

Articles and Books on Close Reserve:

A. L. Basham. *The Wonder that was India*.

Aijaz Ahmad. "Indian Literature: Notes Towards the Definition of a Category" in *In Theory: Classes, Nations, Literatures*

Akhil Gupta. "Narratives of Corruption" in *Red Tape: Bureaucracy, Structural Violence, and Poverty in India*.

Annemarie Schimmel."Foreword" to *Urdu Letters of Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib*

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak. "Can the Subaltern Speak?"

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak. "Translator's Foreword" to "Draupadi"

Gillian Wright. "Translator's Introduction" to *Raag Darbari*

Homi Bhabha, ed. *Nation and Narration*.

Kumkum Sangari and Sudesh Vaid. *Recasting Women: Essays in Indian Colonial History*

Lata Mani. "Colonialism and the writing on Indian History" in "Introduction" to *Contentious Traditions: The Debate on Sati in Colonial India*

Meenakshi Mukherjee. ed. *Early Novels in India*.

Partha Chatterjee. "The Nationalist Resolution of the Women's Question"

Pavan K. Varma. *Ghalib: The Man The Times*.

Ralph Russel and Khurshidul Islam. *Ghalib: Life and Letters*

Richard Allen, and Harish Trivedi, eds. *Literature and Nation: Britain and India, 1800-1990*

S. K. Das, *History of Indian Literature* (Sahitya Akademi).

Sherry Simone and Paul St-Pierre, eds. *Changing the Terms: Translating the Postcolonial Era* (New Delhi: Orient Blackswan, 2002).

Sudipta Kaviraj. "The Imaginary Institutions of India" in *Subaltern Studies Reader Vol.VII*

Sudipta Kaviraj. *The Imaginary Institution of India: Politics and Ideas*

Sujit Mukherjee. *The Idea of Indian Literature: Some readings*

Sujit Mukherjee. *Towards a Literary History of India*.

Sujit Mukherjee. *Translation as Discovery and Other Essays*, and *Translation as Recovery*.

Susan Bassnett and Harish Trivedi, eds. *Post-Colonial Translation: Theory and Practice*

Veena Talwar Oldenburg. "Lifestyle as Resistance: The Case of the Courtesans of Lucknow"

Veena Talwar Oldenburg. *The Making of Colonial Lucknow 1856-1877*

Films /Video on Close Reserve

Umrao Jan [1984] A Film by Muzaffar Ali

Web-link

Study site of Frances W. Pritchett, University of Colombia, <http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00fwp/>

Course Schedule:

Week 1,

Introduction to the Course, and to the Course Requirements, Answer the queries of students so that they may choose their options.

What is Nation, Nation-State? Various theoretical positions regarding it. Refer to essays in Homi Bhabha, ed. *Nation and Narration*. Political conditions that led to the emergence of Nation in Europe. Role of Novel in Nation building. Also refer to Richard Allen and Harish Trivedi's Introduction to *Literature and Nation: Britain and India, 1800-1990*

Week 2,

Problematics of India as a Nation. Refer to Sudipta Kaviraj. *The Imaginary Institution of India: Politics and Ideas* and Partha Chatterjee: *Empire and the Nation: Selected Essays*. Transition from pre-colonial to colonial society, the woman's question. Refer to Kumkum Sangari and Sudaish Vaid ed. *Recasting Women: Essays in Indian Colonial History*

Week 3,

Can there be an Indian Literature? Wouldn't it be preferable to use the plural instead? Refer to the essays in Sujit Mukherjee. *The Idea of Indian Literature: Some readings* and Aijaz Ahmad. "Indian Literature: Notes Towards the Definition of a Category" in *In Theory: Classes, Nations, Literatures*. A brief overview of major currents in Indian Literature, Refer to volume II and III of S. K. Das, *History of Indian Literature*.

Week 4,

A revisiting of the issues discussed so far and Introducing the novel, *Umrao Jan Ada* by Mirza Hadi Ruswa. Topics would include the novel's claim as the first Urdu novel, The fictional strategy of Ruswa, Questions of Realism vs. reality? The Avadh culture in late 19th century. Refer to Meenakshi Mukherjee's essay, "Reality and Realism: Indian

Women as Protagonists in Four Nineteenth Century Novels,” Veena Talwar Oldenburg’s book *The Making of Colonial Lucknow*

Week 5,

Recovery of Woman’s voice in the novel. Woman’s question in colonial India, and the problematic of the space occupied by courtesans. Refer to Veena Talwar Oldenburg. “Lifestyle as Resistance: The Case of the Courtesans of Lucknow” and Partha Chatterjee’s essay, “The Nationalist Resolution of Woman’s Question”

Week 6,

Representation of Woman’s Question in the novel: Representation of Avadh culture and its decline in the novel: class presentations

Week 7,

Representation of Colonial Politics and socio-political issues/1857 Revolt in the Novel. A closer textual analysis of the text, Refer to the Introduction of *Madness of Waiting [Junoon-i-Intezar]* by Krupa Shandilya. pp.3-38 and summing up.

Week 8,

Introducing the novel, *Raag Darbari*. The failure of the ideals of nationalist state, post-Nehruvian disintegration of nationalist dream. The novel as a political critique. The rural-urban conflict in the novel. Identity construction in the novel. The novel’s subversion of homogenous/unitary national identity. Refer to A Gillian Wright. “Translator’s Introduction” to *Raag Darbari* and Akhil Gupta. “Narratives of Corruption” pp 111 to 138 in *Red Tape: Bureaucracy, Structural Violence, and Poverty in India*.

Week 9,

A closer textual analysis of the novel. Class presentations on The Novel as a Political Satire, The Nation and its Discontents in Post-Independent India.

Week 10,

Mid-term Internal Assessment Class Test

Introducing Ghalib, Nineteenth century Urdu literary Culture, Transition from Pre-colonial to colonial society in India. Reading Ghalib's letters in the light of his context. Refer to Pavan K. Varma. *Ghalib: The Man The Times*. Annemarie Schimmel. "Foreword" to *Urdu Letters of Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib* pp.x to xv.

Week 11,

Ghalib's Diary *Dastanbuy*. Though the prescribed select portions will be read in the class, students are expected to have read the entire Diary.

Week 12, 13

Tarabai Shinde's *Stripurush Tulana*. Juxtaposing woman's voice with public debates about woman's question carried out by men. The note of resistance and revolt in the text. Refer to Susie Tharu and K Lalitha's "Literature of Reform and Nationalist Movement" in *Women Writing in India* Vol. 1 (pp 143 to 186) and Kumkum Sangari and Sudesh Vaid, "Introduction" to *Recasting Women: Essays in Indian Colonial History* pp.1-26

Date of Submission of Final Assignment: 1st May 2020. (Assignments should be submitted in the Department Office before 2 pm)