

H301 : Contemporary World Literatures

Background Themes and Issues:

1. World Literature: Goethe's notion of World Literature; disruption of traditional cultural continuities due to war; impossibility of return to earlier settled lives; learning of foreign ideas; conscious and unconscious adoption of new cultures.
2. Contemporary Global Order: Extension of Goethe's ideas to the transcultural discourse of a post-imperial, postcolonial, global order; Samuel Huntington's clash of civilisations and a world of physical displacements, ever-new cultural representations and power structures; Homi Bhabha's description of a world born anew due to historical traumas of imperialism and neo-colonisation.
3. Transcending national barriers: World literature as agent of comprehension of complex constructs of self and the other; vehicle of transcending national projections and move into transnational spaces; challenge to old hierarchies of social and political structures; world literature not restricted to the USA and Europe and longer; equal stake for the marginals and minorities in the new concept of world literature.

Texts for Detailed Study:

1. Isabel Allende: *The House of the Spirits* + film
2. Mahasweta Devi: *The Mother of 1084* + film
3. Wole Soyinka: *The Lion and the Jewel*
4. Jhumpa Lahiri: *The Namesake* + film
5. Alice Walker: *Colour Purple* + film
6. Selected poems by Carol Duffy, Seamus Heaney, Dylan Thomas, Nissim Ezekiel, Keki Daruwala, A.K. Ramanujan, Imtiaz Dharker, Kamala Das, Dalpat Chauhan, Namdeo Dhasal, Pablo Neruda, Langston Hughes, Rita Dove
(Small booklet will be prepared of 3-4 short poems by each poet)

Secondary Texts:

1. Che Guevara: *Motor Cycle Diaries* + film
2. Boris Pasternak: *Dr. Zhivago* + film
3. Salman Rushdie: *Midnight's Children*
4. Ngugi Wa Thiong'o: *A Grain of Wheat*
5. Rohinton Mistry: *Such a Long Journey* + film
6. Martin Amis: *Money*
7. Amy Tan: *Joy Luck Club* + film
8. Orhan Pamuk: *My Name is Red*
9. Chinua Achebe: *Things Fall Apart*
10. Ben Okri: *The Famished Road*
11. Sally Morgan: *My Place*
12. Patrick White: *The Eye of the Storm*
13. Gunter Grass: *The Tin Drum*
14. Naguib Mahfuz: *Cairo*
15. Isaac Singer: *Shosha*

Recommended Reading:

1. Homi Bhabha: *Location of Culture*, Routledge, London, 1994
2. Homi Bhabha: *Nation and Narration*, Routledge, London, 1990
3. Nilufer E. Bharucha (ed.): *World Literature: Contemporary Postcolonial and Post-Imperial Literatures*, Prestige, New Delhi, 2007
4. I. Davies: *Cultural Studies and Beyond: Fragments of Empire*, Routledge, London and New York, 1995
5. Franz Fanon: *Black Skin, White Masks*, Grove Press, New York, 1994
6. Thomas Friedman: *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century*, Farrar, Straus & Giroux, New York, 2005
7. Wolfgang von Goethe: 'Note on World Literature', in 1830, *Goethe: Essays on Art and Literature*, ed. John Gearey, trans. Ellen Von Nardroff and Ernest H. Von Nardroff, Suhrkamp Publishers, New York, 1986
8. Samuel Huntington: *The Clash of Civilisations and the Remaking of World Order*, Simon & Schuster, New York, 1996
9. Brian Jarvis: *Postmodern Cartographies: The Geographical Imagination in Contemporary Culture*, St. Martin's Press, New York, 1998
10. Brenda Marshall: *Teaching the Postmodern*, Routledge, 1 Edition, 1991
11. Edward Said: *Culture and Imperialism*, Vintage, New Delhi, 1994
12. Edward Said. *Orientalism*. Vintage, 1 Edition, New Delhi, 1979
13. Wole Soyinka: *Myth, Literature and the African World*, Cambridge University Press, New York, 1976
14. J. Tomlinson: *Cultural Imperialism*, The Johns Hopkins University Press, Maryland, 1991
15. R. Wilson and W. Dissanayake (eds.): *Global/Local: Cultural Production and the Transnational Imaginary*, Duke University Press, Durham, 1996