

ENGL/FL 200x

World Literature

Transnational Women's Literature: Gender, Culture, Politics

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• Email: trmamoon@alaska.edu • Office hrs. MWRF: 1:00-2:00, T: 11:00-12:00 and by
appt. GRUE 608A
GRUE 307 TR 3:40-5:10

Overview

This course is an introduction to selected works by women writers from India, the Middle East, and Russia. The texts date from the mid twentieth century to the present day. All the works presented will be examined from a transnational feminist framework; their historical and political contexts will be part of the discussion as well. Indian and Islamic literatures, for example, both colonial and postcolonial, will be examined in the light of current world events. Russian literature will be studied against the backdrop of Imperial Russia, the Soviet era, *Perestroika* and post-Soviet periods.

Nonfiction works of criticism will supplement the literary texts. Readings will be presented in various genres, such as memoirs, the short story, the novella, and poetry. Films in English or with subtitles will be shown to elucidate the readings.

The format of the course is lecture/discussion. Texts will be assigned beforehand to be analyzed, discussed, and interpreted in class. Every Thursday there will be a short quiz to test student knowledge of texts assigned for that week. Also, students will have to demonstrate knowledge of the readings by turning in three journal assignments during the semester, each 2-3 pages long. The journals will summarize, discuss, and analyze the readings. Attendance and class participation reflect 10% of the grade in this course.

There will be a take-home final essay exam that will be due on May 8. **No email submissions will be accepted for any of the written work.**

Texts

Susie Tharu & K. Lalita. Women Writing in India, vol. II: The 20th Century

Dalya Cohen-Mor. Arab Women Writers: An Anthology of Short Stories

Books and readings on electronic reserve (<http://eres.uaf.edu>)

Evaluation

Attendance and participation: 10% • Journals (2-3 pp. long each): 30% • Quizzes: 45% •
Final: 15%

Students are not graded on a curve. NB This course will use plus-minus grading.

Grading scale

A+	97-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	0-60
A	93-96	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66		
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62		

Important: If you miss classes, it is your own responsibility to catch up. Keep current with the reading assignments and get notes from a classmate. Make-up quizzes will be given only in cases of documented emergencies and by prior arrangement. Every Friday there will be a quiz at the beginning of the class; if you are late, you will not be allowed more time to write the quiz or to take it at the end of class.

Support Services

If you have problems or concerns see me as soon as possible. You must bring your textbook, notes, and quizzes when you come to see me in my office. I will do my best to help you out. Students are also encouraged to take advantage of the Foreign Languages language lab (608 Grue) and the English Department Writing Center. The instructor will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (203 WHIT, 474-7043) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.

Please keep a respectful attitude in class. As the professor shows respect to the students, the students are expected to return that courtesy.

No food, drink, cell phones or beepers are allowed during class.

Tentative Schedule

Week 1 (Jan 19) Introductions. *What is World Literature? What is Women's Literature?*

Week 2 (Jan 24-26) Lecture on history of India. Postcolonialism and Nationhood.
READING: *Women Writing in India*: Introduction (pp. 1-37). Thursday: quiz.

Week 3 (Jan 31, Feb 02) READING: *Women Writing in India: Introduction* (pp. 37-53)
M. K. Indira (p. 138), I. S Devi (p. 154), Amrita Pritam (p. 160), K. S. Amma (p. 164), A. S. Devi (p. 172). Shivani (p. 180), Hamsa Wadkar (p. 188). Thursday: quiz.

Week 4 (Feb 07-09) READING: *Women Writing in India: Introduction* (pp. 54-63),
Shivani (p. 180), Hamsa Wadkar (p. 188), Dudala Salamma (p. 216), Mahasweta Devi,
(p. 234), Kundanika Kapadia (p. 254). Thursday: quiz.

Week 5 (Feb 14-16). READING: *Women Writing in India: Introduction* (pp. 69-79),
Sulekha Sanyal (p. 291), Saroj Pathak (p. 312), Rajee Seth (p. 401), Sarah Joseph (p.
561). Thursday: quiz. Journal # 1 due the following week.

Week 6 (Feb 21-23). READING: *Women Writing in India: Introduction* (pp. 84-90; 101-109), Rasheed Jahan (p. 117), Ismat Chughtai (p. 126), Razia S. Zaheer (p. 145), Siddiqia B. Sevharvi (p. 197), Meena Kumari Naz (p. 363). Thursday: quiz. Journal # 1 due Thu, 02/23. Film: *Namesake*.

Week 7 (Feb 28, Mar 01) Lecture on the Middle East and the Islamic World. READING: *Arab Women Writers*. Introduction (pp. 1-3; 7-18). Stories from the section *Growing up Female*. Thursday: quiz.

Week 8 (Mar 06-08) READING: *Arab Women Writers*. Introduction (pp. 18-28). Stories from the section *Male-Female Relations*. Film: *The Kite Runner*. Journal # 2 due the week after Spring Break.

March 12-18

SPRING BREAK

Week 9 (Mar 20-22) READING: *Arab Women Writers*. Stories from the sections *Self-Fulfilment* and *Customs and Values*. Thursday: quiz. Journal # 2 due the following week.

Fri, Mar 23 Deadline for Withdrawal

Week 10 (Mar 27-29) READING: *Arab Women Writers*. Stories from the section *The Winds of Change*. Thursday: quiz. Journal # 2 due on Thu, 04/05.

Week 11 (Apr 03-05) Lecture on Russian history. Soviet and Russian writers. Film: To be Announced. Thursday: quiz.

Week 12 (Apr 10-12) READING: Poems by Zinaida Gippius, Anna Akhmatova, Marina Tsvetaeva. Thursday: quiz.

Week 13 (Apr 17-18) Soviet literature. *Perestroika* and *Chernukha* literature. READING: handout “Soviet Russian Women’s Literature in the Early 1980s” by Nicholas Zekulin. Thursday: quiz.

Week 14 (Apr 24-26) Liudmila Petrushevskaya. Readings on e-res. Thursday: quiz. Journal # 3 due the following week.

Week 15 (May 01-03) Tatiana Tolstaya. Readings on e-res. Thursday: quiz. Journal # 3 due on Thu, 05/03.

Tuesday, May 08

TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM