General Information:

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Course Requirements:

Writing: There will be two major papers in this course. The midterm paper (7 pages) will be comparative in scope, and the final paper will be a 12-page research project. In addition, there will be two ‘creative’ projects (no minimum page requirement), where you will get a chance to express yourself in a less formal medium and connect with the texts in more personal ways. Finally, we will all keep and share weekly ‘response journals’ (1-2 pages, due Mondays) in order to verbalize and record our ideas about the readings. All assignments are mandatory for a passing grade.

Participation: As this is a discussion-oriented course, much of the grading is based on in-class participation. This means that you need to be in class everyday, and that you need to participate in the discussions. Attendance is mandatory, and five absences will result in a failing grade for the course. There will also be weekly optional film showings on Thursday nights, which you are strongly urged to attend.

Grading: The breakdown of grading is as follows:

- Attendance/Participation: 30%
- Response Journals: 10%
- Creative Projects: 10%
- Midterm Paper: 20%
- Final Paper: 30%

Course Outline and Readings:

Ever since the British initiated their colonial project in the subcontinent, the cultural dominance they attempted to institute through language created a literary discontinuity in South Asian culture between the traditional and the modern. But since Independence in 1947, the literatures of South Asia headed in different, what some might call postcolonial, directions, and in the last two and a half decades altogether new literatures have emerged from first- and second-generation immigrant writers living primarily in Europe and the Americas. We are going to read novels, short stories, and poetry from all of these literary moments, with an emphasis on learning how to productively analyze and engage with literature and the issues that surround it.

There will be (at least) one course reader available at University Copy, located on Channing at Telegraph—in addition, more readings will be assigned throughout the course. The five novels required for the course are available at the ASUC Bookstore as well as Ned’s Bookstore. All readings are mandatory, unless otherwise noted.