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English 4442: Studies in World Literature
Contemporary Indian Fiction
Spring 2020
TR 2:40-4:05

Course Description:

As an independent nation, India has existed for less than seventy years. Many recent Indian writers, especially those who have written in English, have grappled with the significance and legacy of India's "post-colonial" independence from Great Britain. Through a survey of several of the most important contemporary Indian writers of fiction in English, we will explore how post-colonial India has been imagined and represented. Through our primary and supplemental readings for the course, we will investigate the background, experience, and legacy of Indian independence. We will also acquaint ourselves with some essential concerns of post-colonial theory, and we will consider how such theory both arose from and helps us to understand the practices of fiction writers. Examining a range of genres, from parables to experimental science fiction to darkly comic novels, we will also consider how a distinctively Indian literary style has evolved since Indian independence.

Required Texts:

Aravind Adiga, *The White Tiger* (Free Press: 978-1416562603)
Anita Desai, *Clear Light of Day* (Mariner: 978-0618074518)
Amitav Ghosh, *The Calcutta Chromosome* (Harper: 978-0380813940)
R. K. Narayan, *The Guide* (Penguin: 978-0143039648)
Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things* (Random House: 978-0812979657)
Salman Rushdie, *East, West* (Vintage: 978-0679757894)