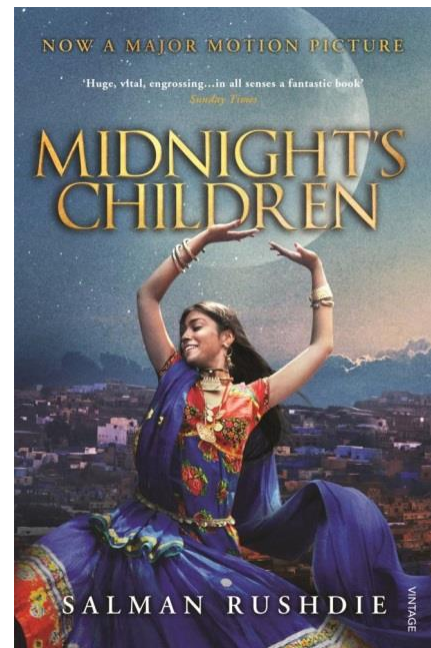


# **HL2022: South Asian Literature**

Over the last few decades, South Asian literature in English has achieved a global prominence that is unique among postcolonial literatures. In this module, we will be tracing the historical development of South Asian writing from the colonial period to the present-day – exploring, among other things, the impact of British colonial policy on its formation, the ongoing debate surrounding its use of an ‘imperial’ language, and the reasons behind its phenomenal popularity. We will also be discussing some of the social and political issues with which this literature engages, whether it be the caste system, communal violence, or the vagaries of the postcolonial nation-state. Although literature will be our primary focus, the course will include an analysis of the Bollywood film *Lagaan*, and will introduce students to a number of important theoretical concepts within the field of postcolonial studies.



## **Primary Sources**

### **FICTION**

Mulk Raj Anand, *Untouchable* (Penguin Classics 1990)  
Saadat Hasan Manto, *Selected Stories* (Available on NTU Learn)  
Michael Ondaatje, *Anil's Ghost* (Vintage 2000)  
Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things* (Flamingo 1997)  
Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children* (Vintage 1995)

### **FILM**

*Lagaan* (dir. Ashutosh Gowariker; 2001)

## **Secondary Sources**

Vinayak Chaturvedi (ed.), *Mapping Subaltern Studies and the Postcolonial*  
Ayesha Jalal and Sugata Bose, *Modern South Asia: History, Culture, Political Economy*  
Arvind Krishna Mehrotra (ed.), *A History of Indian Literature in English*

## Assessment

Class participation	10%
Coursework essay	40%
Exam	50%

NOTE – The use of generative AI is not permitted on this course.

## Lecturer

Dr. Bede Scott  
HSS-03-60  
[btscott@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:btscott@ntu.edu.sg)

Week	Topics	Readings
<b>1</b> 11 Aug	<b>Introduction</b>	
<b>2</b> 18 Aug	<b>Caste and Class I</b>	Mulk Raj Anand, <i>Untouchable</i>
<b>3</b> 25 Aug	<b>Caste and Class II</b>	Mulk Raj Anand, <i>Untouchable</i>
<b>4</b> 1 Sept	<b>Communal Violence and Partition</b>	Saadat Hasan Manto, 'Cold Meat,' 'Open It,' 'Toba Tek Singh'
<b>5</b> 8 Sept	<b>History and the Nation-State I</b>	Salman Rushdie, <i>Midnight's Children</i>
<b>6</b> 15 Sept	<b>History and the Nation-State II</b>	Salman Rushdie, <i>Midnight's Children</i>
<b>7</b> 22 Sept	<b>Gender and Transgression I</b>	Arundhati Roy, <i>The God of Small Things</i>
<b>8</b>	<b>Recess</b>	
<b>9</b> 6 Oct	<b>Gender and Transgression II</b>	Arundhati Roy, <i>The God of Small Things</i>
<b>10</b> 13 Oct	<b>Bollywood, Cricket, and the Nation</b>	FILM: <i>Lagaan</i>
<b>11</b> 27 Oct	<b>Postcolonial Crime I</b>	Michael Ondaatje, <i>Anil's Ghost</i>
<b>12</b> 3 Nov	<b>Postcolonial Crime II</b>	Michael Ondaatje, <i>Anil's Ghost</i>
<b>13</b> 10 Nov	<b>Conclusion/Revision</b>	