

Ambedkar University Delhi  
Course Outline  
Monsoon Semester (August-December 2018)

<b>School:</b>	School of Letters			
<b>Programme with title:</b>	MA English			
<b>Semester to which offered: (II/ IV)</b>	Semester I and III			
<b>Course Title:</b>	<b>Contemporary Indian English Fiction</b>			
<b>Credits:</b>	4 Credits			
<b>Course Code:</b>	SOL2EN304			
<b>Type of Course:</b>	Compulsory	No	Cohort	MA English
	Elective	Yes	Cohort	MA other than English

**For SUS only** (Mark an X for as many as appropriate):

1. Foundation (Compulsory)
2. Foundation (Elective)
3. Discipline (Compulsory)
4. Discipline (Elective)
5. Elective

<b>Course Coordinator and Team:</b>	Sanju Thomas
<b>Email of course coordinator:</b>	sanju@aud.ac.in
<b>Pre-requisites:</b>	None

**Aim:** Indian English fiction has undeniably attained a grand stature among the literatures of the world. The post-Salman Rushdie era has brought in so much of commercial and critical success to Indian English fiction that it has spurred great ambition and prolific literary activities, with many Indians aspiring to write English fiction! Outside India, Indian English fiction is taken as

representative writings from India, though at home the 'Indianness' of Indian English fiction is almost always questioned. A course in contemporary Indian English fiction will briefly review the history of Indian English fiction tracing it from its colonial origins to the postcolonial times to look at the latest trends, and how they paint the larger picture of India. Themes of nation, culture, politics, identity and gender will be taken up for in-depth analysis and discussions through representative texts. The aim will also be to understand and assess the cross-cultural impact of these writings.

### **Brief description of modules/ Main modules:**

#### **Module 1: What is Indian English Fiction?**

This module takes the students through a brief history of Indian English fiction, and also attempts to problematize the concept of Indian English fiction.

#### **Module 2: *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie**

This text is considered to have heralded in the golden age of Indian English fiction. A thorough analysis of the text which deals with its many themes, politics and language.

#### **Module 3: *The God of Small Things***

This text takes forward the legacy of *Midnight's Children* in more ways than one. A detailed study of the text will be undertaken especially with regard to its representation of caste, gender, of the local, and its locale.

#### **Module 4: *The Hungry Tide***

A detailed reading in relation to the themes of alternate history, representation of the subaltern.

#### **Module 5: Fourth text to be decided**

**In addition students will present on texts from the long list given below:**

In addition, each student will be expected to read **2 more novels** as part of assessment, from the list given below:

*The Sari Shop* by Rupa Bajwa

*Ravan and Eddie* by Kiran Nagarkar

*Looking through Glass* by Mukul Kesavan

*A Thousand Faces of Night* by Gita Hariharan

*Such a Long Journey* by Rohinton Mistry

*English, August* by Upamanyu Chatterjee

*Fasting, Feasting* by Anita Desai

*The Valley of Masks* by Tarun Tejpal

*The Great Indian Novel* by Shashi Tharoor

*The Radiance of Ashes* by Cyrus Mistry

*How to Fight Islamist Terror from the Missionary Position* by Tabish Khair

*The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri

*The Inheritance of Loss* by Kiran Desai

*The Walled City* by Esther David

*Custody* by Manju Kapur

*An Equal Music* by Vikram Seth

*Listening Now* by Anjana Appachana

*Narcopolis* by Jeet Thayil

*Serious Men* by Manu Joseph

*A Girl and A River* by Usha KR

*Temporary People* by Deepak Unnikrishnan

*Autoplay* by G Sampath

**Tentative Assessment schedule with details of weightage:**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Date/period in which Assessment will take place</b>	<b>Weightage</b>
1	Writing assignment	Mid-September	30%
2	Presentations	Early November	30%
3	End term assessment	End of November	40%