

CBM003 ADD/CHANGE FORM

Undergraduate Council  
 New Course  Course Change  
 Core Category: Humanities Effective Fall 2014  
*Long Phil Culture*

or

Graduate/Professional Studies Council  
 New Course  Course Change  
 Effective Fall 2012

1. Department: Modern and Classical Languages College: CLASS
2. Faculty Contact Person: Dr. M.T. Hernandez Telephone: 3-3074 Email: mthdz@uh.edu
3. Course Information on New/Revised course:
  - Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:  
WCL / 2370 / Cultures of India
  - Instructional Area / Course Number / Short Course Title (30 characters max.)  
WCL / 2370 / CULTURES OF INDIA
  - SCH: 3.00 Level: SO CIP Code: 16.0104.0001 Lect Hrs: 3 Lab Hrs: 0
4. Justification for adding/changing course: To meet core curriculum requirements
5. Was the proposed/revised course previously offered as a special topics course?  Yes  No  
 If Yes, please complete:
  - Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:  
\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
  - Course ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Effective Date (currently active row): \_\_\_\_\_
6. Authorized Degree Program(s): \_\_\_\_\_
  - Does this course affect major/minor requirements in the College/Department?  Yes  No
  - Does this course affect major/minor requirements in other Colleges/Departments?  Yes  No
  - Can the course be repeated for credit?  Yes  No (if yes, include in course description)
7. Grade Option: Letter (A, B, C ...) Instruction Type: seminar (Note: Lect/Lab info. must match item 3, above.)
8. If this form involves a change to an existing course, please obtain the following information from the course inventory: Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title  
WCL / 2370 / Cultures of India
  - Course ID: 45156 Effective Date (currently active row): 20083
9. Proposed Catalog Description: (If there are no prerequisites, type in "none".)  
 Cr: 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: English 1304 Description (30 words max.): Introduction and exploration of cultural diversity and identity of South Asia. Emphasis on transnationalism, modernity and development.
10. Dean's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 10/9/12  
 Print/Type Name: Sarah Fishman

RECEIVED OCT 12 2012  
*SM*

## REQUEST FOR COURSES IN THE CORE CURRICULUM

Originating Department or College: MCL-WCL

Person Making Request: M.T. Hernandez

Telephone: 3-3074

Email: mthdz@uh.edu

Dean's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: September 10, 2012

Course Number and Title: WCL 2370 Cultures of India

Please attach in separate documents:

Completed CBM003 Add/Change Form with Catalog Description

Syllabus

List the student learning outcomes for the course (Statements of what students will know and be able to do as a result of taking this course. See appended hints for constructing these statements):

Students will be able to demonstrate a familiarity with contemporary Indian culture.

Students will be able to analyze literature, essays, and cinema and use these sources as evidence to support their understanding of the cultural context for modern India.

Students will be able to identify and evaluate the vast cultural diversity and the layered identity of the country.

Students will be able to communicate effectively their understanding of transnationalism, modernity, and development.

Students will explore issues of social and personal responsibility in class and in their writing.

Component Area for which the course is being proposed (check one):

Communication

American History

Mathematics

Government/Political Science

Language, Philosophy, & Culture

Social & Behavioral Science

Creative Arts

Component Area Option

Life & Physical Sciences

Competency areas addressed by the course (refer to appended chart for competencies that are required and optional in each component area):

Critical Thinking

Teamwork

Communication Skills

Social Responsibility

Empirical & Quantitative Skills

Personal Responsibility

Because we will be assessing student learning outcomes across multiple core courses, assessments assigned in your course must include assessments of the core competencies. For each competency checked above, indicated the specific course assignment(s) which, when completed by students, will provide evidence of the competency. Provide detailed information, such as copies of the paper or project assignment, copies of individual test items, etc. A single assignment may be used to provide data for multiple competencies.

**Critical Thinking:**

Students will write an 8-10 page paper that will address a particular issue pertaining to India's culture, history, or identity issues demonstrating their ability to analyze texts, films, and other works of art in relation to specific cultural contexts, as well as broader global contexts.

**Possible paper topics**

- 1) Analyze the symbolism in Adiga's "White Tiger" and how it relates to issues of socioeconomic and poverty in modern day India.
- 2) Discuss the impact of the Opium trade on colonial India in how it is exemplified in current literature.
- 3) Describe, analyze, and compare the impact of the "Partition" – when India and Pakistan separated in 1947 with the separation of Palestine and Israel (known as the "Nakba") which also occurred in 1947.

**Communication Skills:**

In the research paper described above, students will demonstrate their ability to communicate effectively conforming to the writing standards of the discipline.

**Empirical & Quantitative Skills:**

Click here to enter text.

**Teamwork:**

Click here to enter text.

**Social Responsibility:**

- Students will write an 8-10 page research paper in a manner that will show how they have integrated issues of social responsibility as they have seen in the writings and films addressed in class. They will be expected to understand the impact of colonialism on India and how governmental and societal decisions continue to affect the country's population.

**Personal Responsibility:**



WCL 2370

*Cultures of India*

Instructor: Meera Jagannathan

Email: [meerajagannathan@uh.edu](mailto:meerajagannathan@uh.edu)

**Catalogue Description:** Introduction and exploration of cultural diversity and identity on the Indian subcontinent. Special emphasis on transnationalism, modernity, and development through readings in contemporary literature and films.

**Course Description:** This course will introduce students to contemporary Indian culture through literature, essays, and cinema. The secondary goals are to improve the students' critical and writing skills while providing a cultural context for modern India. We will explore the vast cultural diversity and the layered identity of the country, with special emphasis on transnationalism, modernity, and development through our readings and films. By the end of the course, the student will be able to discuss contemporary Indian culture, history, and politics as an informed citizen of the United States.

**Course Goals:**

- To demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of cultures and influences in the region, and show knowledge of the literatures, philosophies and arts that continue to impact modern Indian realities.
- To understand the works produced in India as expressions of individual and group values within an historical and social context.
- To respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
- To achieve a solid introduction to the complex country and its culture and to produce written work that reflect this understanding.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students will be able to demonstrate a familiarity with contemporary Indian culture. Students will be able to analyze literature, essays, and cinema and use these sources as evidence to support their understanding of the cultural context for modern India. Students will be able to identify and evaluate the vast cultural diversity and the layered identity of the country. Students will be able to communicate effectively their understanding of transnationalism, modernity, and development. Students will explore issues of social and personal responsibility in class and in their writing.

**Evaluation of Students:** Students will receive guidance in analyzing texts, films and other works of art in relation to specific cultural contexts, as well as broader global contexts. They will participate in the comparative analysis of texts and films, and learn to articulate on the various topics in the units. There will be group presentation at the end of every unit and student discussion leaders for the unit will bring new material to share with the class. There will be two short papers that cover topics in the unit, and one final paper that takes up a topic related to contemporary India. The rubric will be as follows:

Participation:	20%
Group Presentation:	20%
Paper One (5 pages)	15%
Paper Two (5 pages)	15%
Final Paper (8-10 pages)	30%

**Course material:** Many of the readings will be posted in pdf format on the course web site in the Blackboard. Films will be made available through the library or you can watch them on Netflix.

**Required Texts:**

- Adiga, Aravind. *The White Tiger*. Free Press, 2008.  
Desai, Kiran. *The Inheritance of Loss*. Atlantic Monthly Press, 2006.  
Lahiri, Jhumpa. *Interpreter of Maladies*: Mariner Books Later Edition, 1999.  
Lakshmi, C.S *In a Forest, A Deer*. Oxford University Press, 2006.  
Sidwa, Bapsi. *Cracking India: A Novel*. Milkweed Edition, 1991.

All books available from Amazon and other sellers in various editions and formats, including paperback editions, e-books, Kindle etc.

**Schedule:**

**Unit 1 Freedom at Midnight: “At midnight India awakes”!**

Week 1

Introduction

*From Midnight to the Millennium*-Shashi Tharoor

*Story of India* (documentary by Michael Wood)

Week 2

Selections from *The Passion of the Mahatma*- Stanley Wolpert, Select chapters from *Midnight’s Children* –Salman Rushdie.

Film: *Gandhi* ( A Richard Attenborough film, 1982)

Week 3

*Cracking India* –Bapsi Sidwa (complete novel)

*Earth* (A film by Deepa Mehta about the Partition)

Class Presentations **Special discussion topic:** Freedom Movement of India

## **Unit 2 Tradition and Modernity** (The uneasy transition from tradition to modernity)

Week 4

Selections from *The Idea of India*-Sunil Khilnani

*Delhi 6* (An Abhishek Bhachan film, 2009)

Week 5

Selections from *The Vintage Book of Indian Writing: 1947-1997*- ed. Salman Rushdie & Elizabeth West.

*Shree 420* (A vintage Raj Kappor and Nargis film),

Week 6

*In a Forest, a Deer*- short stories by C.S.Lakshmi (Ambai)

*Vanasprastham* ( a film set in Kerala about Kathakalli dance form)

Class Presentations: **Special discussion topic:** The challenges of Indian modernity

## **Unit 3 Contemporary Realities** (India's religions, art, politics, society)

Week 7

Selections from *In Spite of the Gods*-Edward Luce

*Life in a Metro* (A 2009 film).

Week 8

*The White Tiger*-Aravind Adiga--complete ( 2007 Booker Prize winner)

*Slum Dog Millionaire* (2010 film).

Week 9

Selections from *God of Small Things*- Arundati Roy

*Dhobi Ghat/Mumbai Diaries* (The film, shown at both the Toronto and London film festival explores class and love in modern India).

Class Presentations: **Special discussion topic:** Freedom of expression and the arts today's India.

## Unit 4 Transnationalism, identity, diaspora

Week 10

*Inheritance of Loss*- Kiran Desai (2005 Booker Prize winner)

*Swadesh* ( A Shah Rukh Khan film)

Week 11

*Inheritance of Loss*—complete.

Week 12

*Interpreter of Maladies* – Jhumpa Lahiri.

*Namaste* ( 2007 film that highlights the trauma of emigration and assimilation)

Class Presentations: **Special discussion topic:** Indian immigrants and the politics of diaspora identity.

Week 13

Final paper discussions and readings.